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Drawing smiles

Cartoonists visit wounded troops on weeklong tour

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BEN BLOKER/Stars and Stripes

Garry Trudeau, the creator of "Doonesbury," sketches out his B.D. character for Spc. Ben Brashier on Friday in a ward at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. The USO and the National Cartoonist Society sponsored 10 popular cartoonists and caricaturists on a weeklong entertainment tour to visit troops stationed in Germany and the Persian Gulf.

Japan urged to sign treaty on child abductions

BY CHARLIE REED
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The United States and seven other countries urged Japan on Friday to join an international treaty on child abduction — an issue that has reached fever pitch in recent weeks following the arrest of an American for attempting to take back his children brought here without his consent.

U.S. Ambassador to Japan John Roos, along with his counterparts from the United Kingdom, Canada, France, New Zealand, Italy, Spain and a senior embassy official from Australia, delivered the joint request in a meeting with Japanese Minister of Justice Keiko Chiba. The diplomats urged Japan not only to sign the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction but also to implement measures allowing foreign parents visitation rights to their children in the meantime.

"Because parental child abduction involving Japan affects so many of our citizens, we ... called on Justice Minister Chiba today to address our concerns," according to a statement released by the U.S. Embassy. "The left-behind parents of children abducted to or from Japan have little realistic hope of having their children returned and encounter great difficulties in obtaining access to their children and exercising their parental rights and responsibilities."

SEE TREATY ON PAGE 3

Afghan runoff vote likely

BY KAREN DEYOUNG AND JOSHUA PARTLOW
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — An investigation of allegedly fraudulent ballots in Afghanistan's troubled election has reduced President Hamid Karzai's portion of the vote to about 47 percent, an outcome that will trigger a runoff between him and his closest competitor, according to officials familiar with results.

The tally by the U.N.-backed Electoral Complaints Commission, which one official called "stunning," was due to be finalized Friday. Preliminary results by Afghanistan's national electoral commission had given Karzai 54.6 percent of the Aug. 20 vote.

The findings have major implications for the Obama administration's ongoing deliberations over a new Afghanistan war strategy, and could eventually help remove the cloud of illegitimacy hanging over its partner government there. But a new election could also make an already-difficult situation worse, particularly if fraud is once again alleged or if the vote has

to be delayed much longer because of the onset of the Afghan winter.

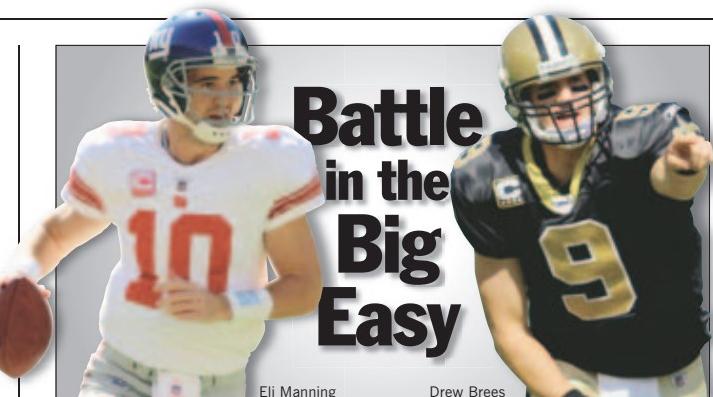
Karzai's ambassador in Washington, Said Tayeb Jawad, said Thursday that a second round of voting was "likely," although Karzai himself has never said he would accept the results of the complaints panel, which must be certified by the election commission.

Jawad, who spoke at the U.S. Institute of Peace, said it would be "impossible" to hold a runoff within the two weeks of certification, as required by the Afghan constitution. But "to delay until spring is a recipe for disaster," he said, adding that a new vote would have to be held within a month to avoid prolonging the uncertainty.

SEE RUNOFF ON PAGE 4



Karzai



Battle in the Big Easy

Eli Manning

Drew Brees

Eli Manning's Giants meet Drew Brees' Saints in matchup of unbeatens Back page

ZOMBIES ARE COMING!
(To video games and theaters) Scene

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm not a racist.
I just don't believe in mixing
the races that way."

—Keith Bardwell, a white Louisiana justice of the peace, on why he refused to issue a marriage license to an interracial couple

See story on Page 10

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2. Airman awarded Combat Action Medal for service in Iraq
3. Beloved chaplain recommended for Medal of Honor
4. DODDS-Europe golf championship: Low temperatures keep scores from rising
5. Navy officer's mistress questioned in Philippines murder case

COMING TOMORROW

Science & Medicine

Bond-like bombs in
the war on
terrorism



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PHOTOS BY BEN BLOKER
Stars and Stripes

Corrections

■ An Oct. 11 story about trilateral patrols by U.S., Arab and Kurdish forces in northern Iraq should have said that the Green Line marking a generally accepted border between semi-autonomous Kurdistan and the rest of Iraq evolved

from barriers set up by Saddam Hussein to isolate the region after Operation Desert Storm ended in 1991.

■ An Oct. 1 story should have said Etsuko Toland, ex-wife of Navy Cmdr. Paul Toland, died in 2007.

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GAO: Body armor tests flawed

Pentagon acknowledges mistakes, says no need for outside review

By RICHARD LARDNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army made critical mistakes in tests of a new body armor design, according to congressional investigators who recommend an independent review of the trials before the gear is issued to troops in war zones.

But Defense Department officials say an outside look isn't needed. In a lengthy response to the Government Accountability

Office report, Pentagon officials acknowledge there were a few problems during testing of the armor's bullet-blocking plates. But these were minor miscues, they said, that don't shake their confidence in the overall results.

The Army has ordered about 240,000 of the new type of bullet-blocking plate to be used in ballistic vests, but doesn't plan to rush the armor into combat. The Army says the plates will be stored until needed to meet future demands.

The GAO report says the Army deviated from established testing standards and concludes that several of the new armor designs that passed would have failed had the tests been done properly.

The report, requested last year by senior members of the House Armed Services Committee, is the latest study to call into question the Army's ability to oversee the production of a key piece of battlefield equipment.

In January, the Pentagon's in-

spector general faulted the Army for not properly overseeing tests on the protective plates at a private ballistics laboratory. The inspector general's audit recommended that nearly 33,000 plates be pulled from the Army's inventory of nearly 2 million because the inserts might not provide troops with adequate protection against armor-piercing bullets.

The Army disputed the findings, but withdrew the plates as a precaution.

The best medicine

Right: "Doonesbury" cartoonist Garry Trudeau makes a sketch for Polish Army Warrant Officer Miroslaw Augustyn. Ten cartoonists and caricaturists, including Jeff Kaine of "The Family Circus" and Stephan Pastis of "Pearls Before Swine" visited troops stationed in Germany and the Persian Gulf.

To view more photos, go to stripes.com/go/cartoon





Stars and Stripes

Cmdr. Paul Toland stands outside the U.S. Capitol on July 16.

A long journey for a brief moment

Navy officer travels to Japan in attempt to talk to daughter

CHARLIE REED
Stars and Stripes

Clutching birthday presents and photographs, Navy Cmdr. Paul Toland waited anxiously outside his daughter's school Friday to get his first glimpse of her in five years.

What he had hoped would be a reunion turned out to be but a fleeting moment.

"I called out to her in Japanese, 'Erika it's your papa. Can we talk?'"

But, just steps from the apartment where she's lived with her grandmother since Toland's ex-wife died in 2007, Erika Toland kept walking, pausing to look back at her father and then entering the building.

His 6,700-mile trip to Japan from his home in Maryland came down to an encounter that lasted roughly a minute.

"I had hoped she would take more of an interest," said Toland, 42, a medical administration officer in Bethesda, Md. He said he gave the gifts and birthday presents to Erika's friends who had witnessed the encounter. "She's going to remember that her dad came to see her for her birthday."

He had been grappling with an approach since arriving in Tokyo more than a week ago, worried about traumatizing Erika. But after years of failed attempts to see his daughter through the courts and with assistance from

the State Department, Toland said he had no other choice.

Toland claims Erika was abducted by his Japanese ex-wife, Etsuko Toland, from their home at a Navy housing complex in Yokohama in 2003 when he was stationed at Yokosuka Naval Base. Erika was just 9 months old at the time, and Toland has seen her only twice since then.

"Really, this is the only way to see your kids in Japan," he said. "Official channels fail in Japan. That's why we're relegated to this."

He claims his former mother-in-law refuses to allow visitation, although Judy Dugger, a Virginia attorney who represents the family of his ex-wife, said that is not the case.

"We welcome him to see her," Dugger said. "Every time we tried to set it up, he'd walk away from it."

"He knows where the child is, and we've offered supervised visitation. He should file for custody in the Japanese courts," Dugger said, adding a claim that Toland owes years of back child support.

Toland denies Dugger's claims and said he has given up on pursuing the case in Japanese courts because "it's a pre-determined outcome."

"You don't change things by complying with a bad system," he said. "You have to resist."

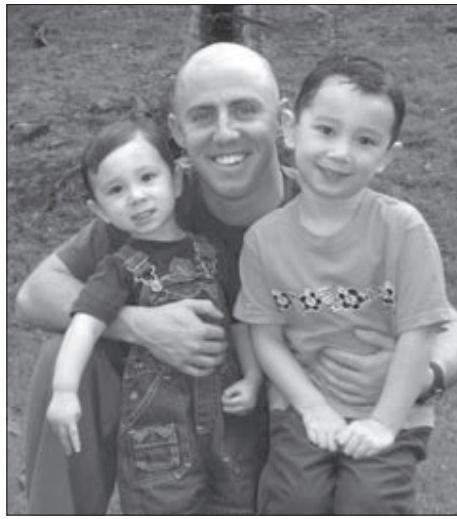
E-mail Charlie Reed at: reedc@pstripes.osd.mil

Filmmakers tackle custody issue



Courtesy of Matt Antell and David Hearn

Matt Antell, left, and David Hearn say they will complete their documentary "From the Shadows" in December.



Courtesy of Cole Johns

Marine 1st Lt. Cole Johns is seen in March 2007 in Hawaii with his two children, Tetsuaki, 4, left, and Takeshi, 7. Johns deployed to Iraq that month and claims his ex-wife absconded with the boys to Japan and cut off communication just a few months later while he was away.

To see the movie's trailer, go to fromtheshadowsmovie.com



Treaty: International child disputes growing in number

TREATY, FROM PAGE 1

It is the most aggressive plea to Japan from the international community in nearly 30 years of mostly behind-the-scenes lobbying. The treaty protects children in cases in which parents have taken them across borders to circumvent standing custody orders or before a court can determine custody.

The Justice Ministry declined to comment Friday.

The debate gained international momentum following the recent arrest of Christopher Savoie by Japanese police for attempting to retrieve his children, taken from their U.S. home by his Japanese ex-wife. After 18 days in confinement, Savoie was released Thursday from a jail in the southern city of Fukuoka.

The 38-year-old Tennessee resident was arrested Sept. 28 after grabbing the children, ages 6 and 8, as his ex-wife walked them to school. He was apprehended by police in front of the U.S. consulate in Fukuoka and charged with abduction of minors.

His case is one of a growing number of international child custody disputes in Japan, where family courts typically award custody to mothers and do not enforce visitation rights with criminal penalties. Moreover, the courts do not recognize foreign custody orders, which many Japanese women estranged from foreign-born spouses defy to bring their children back to their home country.

Despite his release, Savoie could still face prosecution, a spokesman from the Fukuoka District Prosecutors Office said Friday.

The Associated Press reported Friday that Savoie was allowed to leave Japan on the condition he not

TOKYO — Marine 1st Lt. Cole Johns' dreams of reuniting with his children were dashed after he met filmmakers David Hearn and Matt Antell last year.

He last saw his two young sons, Tetsuaki and Takeshi, in March 2007 before he deployed to Iraq. A few months later, Johns said, his Japanese ex-wife took them to Japan and cut off communication.

He clung to hope that the court order he was granted would resolve the issue.

"I kept saying, 'I'm an American with a U.S. court order, I'll be able to get them back,'" said Johns, 29, an infantry officer stationed in Hawaii.

That prospect faded after Hearn and Antell interviewed him for their documentary "From the Shadows." The film chronicles parents who have been cut off from their children living in Japan by the country's family court system, which does not recognize foreign custody orders and favors sole-custody divorce customs that typically grant guardianship to mothers.

Johns said that after the filmmakers interviewed him and he connected with others facing similar custody issues in Japan, it became clear he was powerless.

"That's when it hit me," said Johns, who met his wife in 1999 while stationed at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. The realization was like "a slow poison drip."

Johns is one of about 25 left-behind parents whom Hearn and Antell interviewed. The documentary also chronicles Japanese parents fighting to change family law in Japan, which is equally dysfunctional in domestic and foreign cases.

"There's a growing number of Japanese unhappy with the system," Antell said. "I don't think it represents the modern view of marriage now."

The arrest last month of Tennessee resident Christopher Savoie by Japanese police catapulted the issue into the mainstream media. After spending 18 days in jail, Savoie, who was charged with abducting his two children after his Japanese ex-wife allegedly took them from their U.S. home to Japan, was released Thursday.

"From the Shadows" could end on a dramatic note depending on how the Savoie story plays out in Japanese courts over the next few weeks. The film wraps in December and will then be submitted to film festivals.

Either way, Hearn, who lives in Tokyo, and Antell, a Los Angeles resident, are counting on the wave of recent media attention to help generate interest in the film, which they began making in 2006.

The news coverage "proves we've chosen well and that there's good reason to be making this," he said.

— Charlie Reed

take the children with him. His wife said he is recuperating at an undisclosed location.

"It's great that he's been released, but it does nothing to solve the problem with his children," Jeremy Morely, Savoie's U.S. attorney, said Thursday.

"These parents feel that they have no other choice but to take matters into their own hands. We in the legal system discourage that," Morely said. "But there's not a chance at the moment that they can get any kind of useful results out of the Japanese legal system. When people are desperate they'll do anything for their children."

Meanwhile, an increasingly vocal group of Japanese parents also has been petitioning the Japanese government to overhaul its family court system and to remedy domestic custody issues.

"There is a need to grant joint child custody to parents," said Diet member Hakubun Shimomura. He said Japan must change its domestic laws before signing onto the Hague convention and that raising public awareness was key to accomplishing that.

The Daily Yomiuri, one of the nation's largest newspapers, published an editorial Friday pressing Japan to take action.

"Differences in systems and customs over parental custody and divorce between Japan and Western nations add another complicating factor to the mix," the paper wrote. "But a number of troubling cases have occurred, and the issue has become a cause of diplomatic friction. The government must tackle the issue without delay."

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this story.
E-mail Charlie Reed at: reedc@pstripes.osd.mil

Egyptian is key al-Qaida figure in Afghanistan

By ROBERT H. REID
The Associated Press

KABUL — He's a heavyweight in al-Qaida but little known outside jihadi and intelligence circles even though he runs the terrorist movement's operations in a key front — Afghanistan — and may be linked to a plot in New York.

Mustafa al-Yazid makes no secret of his contempt for the United States, once calling it "the evil empire leading crusades against the Muslims."

"We have reached the point where we see no difference between the state and the American people," al-Yazid told Pakistan's Geo TV in a June 2008 interview. "The United States is a non-Muslim state bent on the destruction of Muslims."

Al-Yazid may also have links to Afghan immigrant Najibullah Zazi, whom U.S. authorities have arrested in an alleged plot to use homemade backpack bombs, perhaps on New York City's mass transit system.



GEO TV/AP

Television footage shows Egyptian Mustafa al-Yazid, who is believed to be a heavyweight in al-Qaida operations in Afghanistan.

Two U.S. intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because the case remains under investigation, said that the bespectacled, Egyptian-born al-Yazid used a middleman to contact Zazi, indicating that the al-Qaida leadership took a keen interest in what U.S. officials call one of the most serious terrorism

threats crafted on U.S. soil since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Despite his relative obscurity in the West, the shadowy, 55-year-old al-Yazid has been involved with Islamic extremist movements for nearly 30 years since he joined radical student groups led by fellow Egyptian Ayman al-Zawahri, now the No. 2 figure in

al-Qaida after Osama bin Laden.

In the early 1980s, al-Yazid served three years in an Egyptian prison for purported links to the group responsible for the 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

After his release, al-Yazid, also known as Sheik Said and Abu Saeed al-Masri, turned up in Afghanistan, where, according to al-Qaida's propaganda wing Al-Sabah, he became a founding member of the terrorist group.

He later followed bin Laden to Sudan and back to Afghanistan, where he served as al-Qaida's chief financial officer, managing secret bank accounts in the Persian Gulf that were used to help finance the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington.

After the U.S. and its allies invaded Afghanistan in 2001, al-Yazid went into hiding for years. He surfaced in May 2007 during a 45-minute interview posted on the Web by Al-Sabah, in which he was introduced as the "official in charge" of the terror-

ist movement's operations in Afghanistan.

Some security analysts believe the choice of al-Yazid as the Afghan chief may have signaled a new approach for al-Qaida in the country where it once reigned supreme.

Michael Scheuer, former head of the CIA unit that tracked bin Laden, believes that bin Laden and al-Zawahri wanted a trusted figure to handle Afghanistan "while they turn to other aspects of the jihad outside" the country.

Al-Yazid had little background in leading combat operations. But terrorism experts say his advantage was that he was close to Taliban leader Mullah Omar.

As a fluent Pashto speaker known for impeccable manners, al-Yazid enjoyed better relations with the Afghans than many of the al-Qaida Arabs, whom the Afghans found arrogant and abrasive.

Runoff: Fraud probe could lead to a second election

RUNOFF, FROM PAGE 1

The United States and its NATO allies in Afghanistan agreed last month that if there was to be a runoff, it would have to be held by the first week in November to avoid a turnout that would almost certainly be low because of the harsh winter.

Ballots listing both Karzai and his closest challenger, Abdullah Abdullah, printed in London in anticipation of a runoff, have already arrived at United Nations headquarters in Kabul, a U.S. official in Afghanistan said, while indelible ink is on hand and polling station kits are expected to be packed for distribution this week.

The "preliminary" results announced by the electoral commission last month gave Abdullah, a former foreign minister, 28 percent of the vote. The Afghan constitution mandates a runoff if no candidate is awarded more than half of the ballots.

Officials interviewed for this article spoke on condition of anonymity because the situation was developing rapidly; some also

refused to be identified by their government.

"The big challenge is security," the U.S. official said of new elections. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top military commander in Afghanistan, has told U.N. and Obama administration officials that his forces have begun preparations for providing protection during the vote.

For the Obama administration, much of the delay in determining a way forward in the faltering war has hinged on the uncertain outcome of the Afghan elections.

President Barack Obama has held five-closed door meetings with his top national security advisers this month to consider McChrystal's recommendation that tens of thousands of additional U.S. troops be deployed to Afghanistan next year, but White House officials have said a decision is still weeks away.

"We've got to figure out a way to give legitimacy to whoever wins," an administration official said. A second round, "if clean, and if done properly, basically washes away the sins of the first," he said.



MUSADEQ SADEQ/AP

Abdullah Abdullah, right, who is a presidential candidate rival of President Hamid Karzai, will likely face Karzai in a runoff election.

But officials agreed that a new vote would also be fraught with peril. It "definitely cuts both ways," said Alex Thier of the U.S. Institute of Peace, who hosted Jawad at the think tank on Thursday. "On the one hand, holding the runoff could clear away some of the problems and allegations of the first round that have tainted the process and rightly made the administration, if this is truly a work of partnership, want to hold

off until they knew who the government was going to be."

"But at the same time," Thier said, "there is obviously no guarantee" that a legitimate election could be organized in a few weeks or could avoid resulting in another cascade of allegations of abuse.

"There are costs to it, no question," he added, including the possibility that the administration "would have to go ahead

with a (strategy) decision without knowing."

Karzai remained a wild card as officials in Washington, Europe and Kabul awaited an official announcement of the results. While saying he was willing to let the recount run its course — despite the preliminary victory already awarded him by the electoral commission — the president has long threatened to denounce the complaints panel as illegitimate.

4 American troops killed in blast in southern Afghanistan

The Associated Press

KABUL — Four more American troops died in a bombing in southern Afghanistan, the U.S. military said Friday.

Rising death tolls and the political crisis brought on by a fraud-marred election have prompted the Obama administration to review its entire Afghanistan war strategy.

Two of the U.S. servicemembers were killed instantly in the Thursday blast and two others died of their wounds, the U.S. said in a statement. No further details were

released.

The deaths bring to 25 the number of American servicemembers killed in Afghanistan this month, according to an Associated Press count.

Elsewhere, four Afghans, including at least two civilians, died during a firefight Friday between militants and a joint international-Afghan force in Ghazni province. There were conflicting accounts of the gunbattle.

The NATO-led coalition said two militants fired from a two-story building and troops returned fire, killing a pair of gun-

men. "When the joint force entered the building, they discovered two civilians who subsequently died from their wounds," the coalition said in a statement. "It is unclear if the enemy militants or the joint force are responsible for the deaths."

Ghazni police chief Gen. Khail Buz Sherzai said the dead were all civilians from the same family. A native of Mangor village, Mohammad Sarwar, said the operation began late Thursday when U.S. and Afghan forces raided several houses overnight, blowing apart doors and windows with explosives. He also said four civilians

were killed in the operation violence has increased across Afghanistan this year, coinciding with a boost in U.S. military numbers. President Barack Obama is now considering whether to commit still more American troops to the about 65,000 already ready here.

The White House is considering various options, including a sharp increase in the number of U.S. troops or shifting the focus to missile strikes and special operations raids against al-Qaida members hiding in neighboring Pakistan.

30,000 vets still missing first GI Bill checks

By LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than 30,000 student veterans enrolled in classes this fall still have not seen their first checks under the new GI Bill, and some of them might not get any official payments until 2010, Veterans Affairs officials said Thursday.

Keith Wilson, director of the VA's education services, told members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee that claims workers hope to get through the backlog before the start of the spring semester, and officials are still using mandatory overtime to help process the thousands of pending claims.

As of this week, about 52,000 currently enrolled student veterans or eligible family members are receiving their housing stipends, book allowances and tuition payments, but the rest could take weeks or

Some may not see payments until 2010

months to process.

"[VA Secretary Eric Shinseki] has made it clear to everyone that any delay in payments is unacceptable," Wilson said. "I know what it's like to stand in line for food stamps after defending this country. I take this very personally, and we're going to fix it."

All 82,000 people enrolled under the new GI Bill this fall were eligible for a \$3,000 emergency payment, an advance on unprocessed education claims designed to keep veterans from taking out loans or dropping out of school because of mounting bills. In the first week of the program this month, more than 41,000 students signed up for the checks.

Those emergency payouts came after criticism last month from veterans groups

and lawmakers about the growing list of students not receiving any new GI Bill money, despite promises the program would be ready by Aug. 1.

On Wednesday, Shinseki told the committee that mistakes in processing time estimates — sorting through just one new GI Bill claim takes over an hour instead of the estimated 15 minutes — coupled with the large number of students using the benefit caused a greater workload than the VA anticipated.

A new automated computer system is expected to simplify that process, but the system won't be fully operational until December 2010, Wilson said. That drew criticism from lawmakers who worry that students enrolling in classes next spring and fall could face similar delays.

Wilson said the VA is working to improve the system for the spring and is confident that the program will run smoother once the initial backlog is processed. More than 213,000 applications have been processed for the new education benefit since the summer, although the majority of those are veterans looking to use the money for school in coming years and not this semester.

Congress passed the new GI Bill benefits — the first major overhaul of the education benefit in decades — in summer 2008. The new program promises any servicemember who served at least three years on active duty since September 2001 tuition payouts equal to a four years at their state's most expensive public school, plus a monthly living stipend and \$1,000 for books each year.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.osd.mil

New bases in Bulgaria, Romania cost U.S. more than \$100M

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — The Pentagon is spending more than \$100 million to build new military bases in Bulgaria and Romania, even as the Obama administration recently scrapped plans for a missile-defense shield in other parts of Eastern Europe.

Last month, the White House announced it no longer planned to base U.S. missiles and troops in Poland and the Czech Republic. Meanwhile, more than 2,000 U.S. troops — including two squadrons from the Vilseck, Germany-based 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment — were taking part in exercises in nearby Romania and Bulgaria.

The exercises, which began in late June, will run until the end of October.

Col. Gary Russ, commander of Joint Task Force-East, said nobody in Romania or Bulgaria has challenged what the U.S. is doing in those countries since the missile defense plan was scrapped.

"We have made commitments and they have never made any overt conversation along the lines of pulling out of JTF-East," said Russ, who leads the largest U.S. military contingent operating in Eastern Europe. "I think both of these [bases] illustrate great commitment [to Eastern Europe]."

Part of that commitment comes in the form of a \$50 million military base in Romania that could house 1,600 U.S. troops, and another \$60 million facility for 2,500 troops in Bulgaria. Construction on the Romanian base is expected to be completed in the next two months, while the Bulgarian base

is expected to open in 2011 or 2012.

The bases, funded by the U.S. but owned by the Romanian and Bulgarian governments, will be shared between U.S. and host-nation forces, Russ said.

James Robbins, a senior fellow in national security affairs with the Washington-based think tank American Foreign Policy Council, said the U.S. efforts in Romania and Bulgaria are part of a global redeployment strategy started in the early years of the Bush administration to shift U.S. forces out of Germany and move them eastward.

Placing troops in those countries would not only be cheaper, but it would move them closer to the volatile Middle East, he said.

And while scrapping the missile defense plan could have created a sense that America wouldn't live up to its commitments in the region, Robbins said, any move to pull U.S. conventional forces out of Eastern Europe would be "criminally foolish."

"It would be telling Russia that that U.S. is not interested in Eastern Europe and telling those countries that they are basically on their own," he said.

Steven Pifer, a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institution, said there are also concerns over whether NATO's post-Cold War transformation could come at the expense of Article V of the treaty — defense of member nations, Pifer said.

Officially, Czech leaders said they understood the reasons for abandoning the shield, and they expressed confidence that the

country would remain secure, according to an Associated Press report.

But some were upset by the reversal, AP reported last month.

Former Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek went on Czech radio to vent his frustrations, AP reported.

"The Americans are not interested in this territory as they were before. It's bad news for the Czech Republic," Topolanek said, according to the wire service.

In Poland, reactions varied. Prime minister Donald Tusk said he hoped his country would play a role in the revamped U.S. defense, according to the Associated Press.

Officials said the U.S. intends to deploy troops to Poland at some point in the near future.

"We will further demonstrate our commitment to Poland by continuing with plans to rotate a U.S. Army Patriot unit to Poland once a bilateral Supplemental Status of Forces Agreement is agreed, ratified and implemented," said Ellen O. Tauscher, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, during testimony before the House Armed Services Committee earlier this month.

On the Russian side, missile defense was perceived as a threat, Pifer said.

"The Russians also didn't like the idea of American military infrastructure going up in Poland and the Czech Republic. It is closer to Russia and it anchors those countries more firmly in NATO," he said.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsons@stripes.osd.mil



Pfc. Joseph A. Allen, 21, a cavalry scout for the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, picks up spent brass after an early morning exercise at the Babadag Training Area in eastern Romania.

MARLA R. KEOWN
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

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Suicide bomber kills 15 at Iraq mosque

BY SAMEER N. YACOUB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber armed with an assault rifle opened fire on worshippers during Friday prayers at a mosque in northern Iraq until he ran out of ammunition and then blew himself up, killing 15 people, police and hospital officials said.

The dead included the Sunni cleric who was leading the prayers at the mosque in Tal Afar, but it was unclear if he was the intended victim, said a local police official. Sunni clerics who have been speaking out against al-Qaida in Iraq and sectarian violence have increasingly become targets for attacks.

Sahir Jalal, 37, who was at the mosque for prayers, said the cleric, Abdul-Satar Hassan, a member of Iraq's largest Sunni political party, had just begun delivering his sermon when a tall man stood up.

"Then he took out a small rifle from under his jacket and started to shoot," he said.

Seconds later, the man shouted "God is Great" and detonated explosives strapped to his body, Jalal said.

The man triggered his explosives only after running out of ammunition for the AK-47 rifle he was firing, said the police official. Sixty-five people were wounded in the attack, he said.

Both Majed and the police official said 15 people were killed. The police official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.



KARIM KADIM/AP

Followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr crowd a street as they attend open-air Friday prayers in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad on Friday. A suicide bomber blew himself up during Friday prayers at a mosque in northern Iraq, killing 15 people.

Earlier this month, a Sunni cleric driving home after delivering a sermon in Saglawiyah, 45 miles northwest of Baghdad, was killed by a bomb attached to his car. Last week, the cleric who leads the biggest Sunni mosque in Baghdad was wounded in a similar bombing.

A Sunni cleric in Mosul was killed in September, also by a bomb attached to his car.

Tal Afar, a mostly Turkoman city, is located along one of the major smuggling routes from Syria to Mosul and has gone through cycles of stability and instability for years. The Sunni ma-

jority at one time had an alliance with the Shiite police to battle Sunni insurgents and their allies.

While violence in Iraq has dropped dramatically since the height of the insurgency, the area in and around Mosul is considered one of the last strongholds of the Sunni-backed insurgency and the scene of some horrific bombings recently.

Recent attacks have mainly targeted ethnic minorities, possibly indicating insurgents are seeking out vulnerable, relatively unprotected targets to maximize casualties as the strapped Iraqi army focuses its efforts on more

central areas of the country.

On Aug. 7, a suicide truck bomb flattened a mosque in a northern Mosul suburb, killing at least 44 people and wounding more than 200. On July 9, two suicide bombers wearing explosives belts killed at least 38 people and injured 66 near a judge's house in Tal Afar.

The latest attack came as Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki blasted al-Qaida and insurgent groups during a service that marked the end of a mourning period for the approximately 100 people killed in suicide truck bombings that targeted the finance and foreign ministries in

Baghdad on Aug. 19.

Al-Maliki called the bombings a message from insurgents who "want to topple the political process" in Iraq.

"They want to return to the past with all its pains and injuries," he said.

The U.S. military has said overall levels of violence remain low compared with past years but have warned insurgents will step up efforts to re-ignite sectarian violence before January's national elections.

It is also a sensitive time for the government because Iraqi forces are assuming control of security from U.S. forces, which withdrew from Iraqi cities at the end of June according to a security agreement between Washington and Baghdad.

Also Friday, an aide to Iraq's prime minister said a Sunni lawmaker accused of being an insurgent ringleader has been detained in Malaysia.

Mohammed al-Dayni slipped through Iraqi custody months ago but was detained in Kuala Lumpur, Yassin Majed said.

Earlier this year, al-Dayni was charged with ordering a wave of attacks that included a 2007 suicide blast in the parliament cafeteria and mortar strikes on Baghdad's Green Zone.

Al-Dayni tried to flee the country in February on a flight to Jordan, only to have the plane turned back. He slipped through Iraqi custody after arriving in Baghdad and disappeared. He later turned up on a Syrian cooking show.

Iraq lawmakers shelve referendum on withdrawal

Tribune Newspapers

BAGHDAD — Plans to hold a referendum that could have accelerated the withdrawal of American forces have been quietly shelved, as even those Iraqi politicians who were pushing for the poll conclude that it would no

longer be a useful exercise.

Sunni Muslim politicians had wanted the referendum on the U.S.-Iraqi security pact to be held in January to coincide with national elections. But with the clock ticking on preparations for the elections, there is now not enough

time to also draft and approve the legislation required to hold a referendum, legislators say.

Perhaps more significant, the political will to hold a referendum may have evaporated amid the realization that U.S. troops are leaving anyway.

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Japan leaves realignment funds untouched for now

By CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan's Defense Ministry, under a new national government, on Thursday trimmed its 2010 budget request by 3 percent but left untouched the amount to be spent on realigning U.S. forces in the country.

Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa announced Friday that the ministry requested about \$47 billion for the fiscal year starting in April, less than current-year spending and the eighth decline in as many years.

The ministry is to cut back costs for fuel, thereby curtailing Japan Self-Defense Forces training and equipment procurement, according to a budget summary report the ministry released Friday.

The ministry, meanwhile, endorsed the full amount of U.S. military-related expenditures as proposed in August by the previous government.

The new budget request earmarked about \$890 million for realignment costs in 2010, which includes moving operations of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Camp Schwab, upgrading infrastructure on Guam to move

about 8,000 Marines there and relocating Carrier Air Wing 5 from Naval Air Facility Atsugi to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

A total of \$1.9 billion, an increase of slightly less than 1 percent from the current budget, was requested as funding for the host nation support program, under which Japan pays running costs for military bases in the country, including utilities and Japanese employee salaries.

The request was closely watched as the new government has yet to show its hand on the planned move of Futenma operations to Camp Schwab in the rural northern part of Okinawa.

Since wresting power from the pro-U.S. military Liberal Democratic Party in September, leaders of the coalition government, led by the Democratic Party of Japan, have indicated their intention to review the 2006 bilateral agreement to keep the Marine air facility on Okinawa.

Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima expressed frustration last week over the new government's delays regarding the Camp Schwab runway project. While showing support for the project only as a second-best option, he urged the government to make a

decision as quickly as possible.

Masaaki Gabe, professor of international relations at the University of the Ryukyus, said in a telephone interview Friday that the budget proposal shows a lack of new government leadership.

"Despite their verbal promises to re-examine the plan," he said, "the budget is telling us that the government would continue to carry out the project."

Masashi Nishihara, president of the Research Institute for Peace and Security and retired president of the National Defense Academy, said that the coalition government is in no position to decide on its own to change an agreement worked out between the previous administration and the United States.

On the other hand, the DPJ promised voters in its platform to move the operations off of Okinawa, he said.

Nishihara said a lot could be decided in the coming week when Defense Secretary Robert Gates is scheduled to visit Japan, ahead of President Barack Obama's visit in November.

E-mail Chiyomi Sumida at: sumidac@pstripes.osd.mil

Lending a hand



JOSHUA WAHL/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Ensign Whitney Steiger, attached to the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry, paints a flag pole base at West Central Elementary School on Thursday during a community service project in Palawan, Philippines.

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IN THE STATES

Winter storms the Northeast



DAVID KIDWELL, THE (STROUDSBURG, PA.) POCONO RECORD/AP

Marion Gill, of Claysville, Pa., takes pictures of snow in Tobeanna State Park in Tobeanna, Pa., on Thursday. One of the earliest snow storms on record left parts of the Poconos with five inches of snow. The storm also left New York and New Jersey covered.

Family denies ordeal was hoax

Boy was not in runaway balloon

By P. SOLOMON BANDA
AND IVAN MORENO
The Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — The father of a 6-year-old boy who was thought to be in a helium balloon that floated away — but was hiding at home the whole time — said Friday accusations that the ordeal was a publicity stunt are "extremely pathetic."

Richard Heene and his family made the rounds on all three television networks on Friday after Falcon Heene vanished around the time his family's homemade helium balloon floated away from their home on Thursday. The incident set off a national uproar as authorities scoured the plains of northern Colorado for the youngster. Turns out, he was hiding in the rafters of the family's garage.

During a live interview with CNN Thursday night, Falcon said he had heard his family calling his name but didn't come out of the attic hiding place because his father "had said that we did this for a show." The boys' parents — Richard and Mayumi Heene — are storm chasers who appeared twice in the reality TV show "Wife Swap," on which wives from two often very different families change places for two weeks.

Sheriff Jim Alderden said Friday his investigators believe there

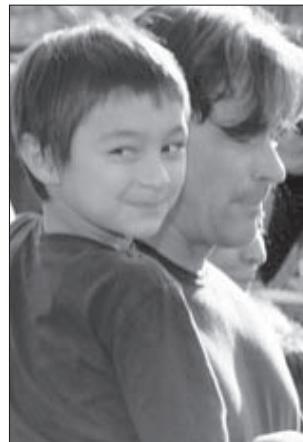
was no hoax, but investigators will seek a new interview with the family after the CNN broadcast to clarify the statement.

Alderden said investigators trained to look at body language and verbal communication for signs of deception, were at the Heene home during the whole ordeal and believe they were telling the truth.

Richard Heene lambasted speculation that the ordeal was a hoax.

"I went through such a roller coaster of emotions yesterday, to have people say that, I think, is extremely pathetic," he told ABC. "I'm not selling anything."

It was five hours from the time the oldest of three sons reported that Falcon, the youngest, had climbed into a saucer-shaped balloon that had drifted off, setting off a search that included



Six-year-old Falcon Heene greets reporters with his father, Richard, outside the family's home in Fort Collins, Colo., after Falcon Heene was found hiding in a space above a garage on Thursday.

military helicopters and a plan to either lower a person to the craft or place weights on the balloon to bring it down. Officials rerouted planes around the balloon's flight path and briefly shut down Denver International Airport.

"I was in the attic and he scared me because he yelled at me," Falcon said, referring to his father.

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Bank of America CEO will return his salary

BY STEVENSON JACOBS
AND VINNIE TONG
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Capping a year in which he faced shareholder fury, regulatory scrutiny and was stripped of his chairman post, outgoing Bank of America Corp. CEO Ken Lewis will get no salary or bonus for 2009 in an agreement with the government's pay czar.

Kenneth Feinberg, the U.S. Treasury Department's special master for compensation who is scrutinizing pay packages at bailed-out banks, suggested that Lewis should get no pay for the year.

Lewis agreed, Bank of America spokesman Robert Stickler said Thursday.

Lewis will pay back about \$1 million he has received out of a \$1.5 million annual salary.

"He will write a check to the company," Stickler said.

The clawback provision doesn't apply to Lewis' previously negotiated retirement package, estimated to be worth tens of millions of dollars.

Now that Feinberg has set a precedent for a clawback in pay, eyes will turn to the fate of other Wall Street CEOs, such as Vikram Pandit, whose Citigroup Inc. also has received \$45 billion in bailout aid. Feinberg will make decisions about pay for 75 of the

highest-earning executives.

Mark Williams, a finance professor at Boston University and a former Fed examiner, expects that Citigroup and Wells Fargo & Co. executives could also see similar requests from Feinberg.

"It would be inconsistent not to," he said in an interview Thursday.

Lewis, 62, hastily announced last month that he will step down as CEO by Dec. 31, ending a tumultuous year in which BofA has faced accusations it misled shareholders about its acquisition of the investment bank Merrill Lynch & Co. He first joined the bank in 1969.

BofA had no successor in place, leading many to think that his quick exit had surprised the board.

It has said a replacement would be chosen before Lewis leaves.

The Merrill deal is being investigated by both the Securities and Exchange Commission and New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo.

Cuomo's office is trying to determine whether BofA misled shareholders about \$3.6 billion in bonuses paid to Merrill employees and the investment bank's mortgage lending losses, as well as whether BofA failed to tell shareholders that it considered backing out of the deal before it closed on Jan. 1.

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An uncivil contract

BY T. CHRISTIAN MILLER | Los Angeles Times

One man's suffering is silent reminder of wars' toll on civilian contractors

ACENTRAL POINT, Ore. A nurse rocked him awake as pale dawn light crept into the room. "C'mon now, c'mon," the nurse murmured. "Time to get up."

Reggie Lane was once a hulking man of 260 pounds. Friends called him "Big Dad." Now, he weighed less than 200 pounds and his brain was severely damaged. He groaned angry, wordless cries.

The nurse moved fast. Two bursts of deodorant spray under each useless arm. Then he dressed Reggie and used a mechanical arm to hoist him into a wheelchair.

Reggie's head fell forward, his chin buried in his chest. His legs crossed and un-crossed involuntarily. His left index finger was rigid and pointed, as if frozen in permanent accusation.

In 2004, Reggie was driving a fuel truck in Iraq for a defense contractor when insurgents attacked his convoy with rocket-propelled grenades. For most of the five years since, Reggie, now 60, has spent his days in silence, a reminder of the hidden costs of relying on civilian contract workers to support the U.S. war effort.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. military has depended on contract workers more than in any previous conflict — to cook meals for troops, wash laundry, deliver supplies and protect diplomats, among other tasks. Tens of thousands of civilians have worked in the two battle zones, often facing the same dangers as U.S. soldiers and suffering the same kinds of injuries.

Nearly 1,600 civilian workers — both Americans and foreign nationals — have died in the two war zones. Thousands more have been injured.

Many of the civilians have come home as military veterans in all but name, sometimes with lifelong disabilities but without the support network available to returning soldiers.

"These guys are like the Vietnam vets of this generation," said Lee Frederiksen, a psychologist who worked for Mission Critical Psychological Services, a Chicago-based firm that provides counseling for war-zone workers. "The normal support that you would get if you were injured in the line of duty as a police officer or if you were injured in the military ... just doesn't exist."

He didn't go to fight a war'

Reggie was born in Ventura, Calif., and moved to Grants Pass, Ore., when he turned 12. He met his wife, Linda, there, and the two grew up together.

After high school, Reggie enlisted in the Army and went to Vietnam. He and Linda found each other after he returned.

They were inseparable. Reggie was steady, strong. Linda was energetic and outgoing. They eventually found work as a truck-driving team, steering tractor-trailers across the country.

His CB radio handle was "Grizzly." Hers was "Wild Cat." He loved country music and Tom Clancy novels, G. Gor-



FRANCINE ORR/Los Angeles Times

don Liddy's talk show and Honda motorcycles. She loved the open road, the speed of the truck.

"We went to see the big wide world driving a truck. What an adventure," Linda recalled.

But work was haphazard, and the pay was modest. Together, they made about \$32,000 a year. They had a hard time keeping up with bills and twice filed for bankruptcy.

In the fall of 2003, Linda heard that defense contractor KBR Inc. was hiring truck drivers to deliver fuel, food and supplies for the military in Iraq. The salary was \$88,000 a year, more than they had ever earned.

By November, Reggie was on his way to Iraq.

"He didn't go over there to fight a war. He went over there because (KBR) said you'll have armed guards," Linda said. "They promised big money. You'll be protected, no problem."

On April 9, 2004, a rocket-propelled grenade shattered the windshield of Reggie's truck. Reggie was thrown face-up on the shoulder of the road. His right arm was gone below the elbow. His face was covered in shrapnel wounds. He was drenched in blood.

The rest of the convoy moved ahead, apparently oblivious. Friend and fellow driver Jason Hurd fumbled with Reggie's arm, trying to apply a tourniquet. Then a group of military vehicles pulled over to help. An Army helicopter evacuated him to a U.S. base, where he was put on an emergency flight to Germany.

Linda got the news from a military doctor. A few days later, Reggie called. He told her not to worry.

"I still got one arm left to hug you with," he said.

It was the last conversation she would have with her husband.

Two days later, another military doc-

"These guys are like the Vietnam vets of this generation."

Lee Frederiksen, psychologist

tor in Germany called Linda, asking permission to perform an emergency tracheotomy on Reggie. A blood clot had dislodged, blocking the flow of blood to his brain.

"My head is spinning. I'm trying to digest what they're telling me," Linda said. "I'm deciding this long-distance by phone, and it's someone I love."

Ten days after the attack, Reggie was on a flight back to the U.S., headed to a Houston hospital. KBR paid to have Linda meet her husband in Texas.

She was unprepared for the sight. A raw, red stump was all that remained of his right arm. There was a hole in his throat. She could see his intestines, which were left exposed to aid in cleaning out shrapnel. His body was swollen and purple. He was unresponsive, his pupils mere pinpoints.

Slowly, Reggie's condition improved. Toward the end of his hospital stay, he could respond to questions. He would say: "Love Linda." He was trying to stand up with help.

"By the time he left, he was interacting, communicating," said Sunil Kochari, a neurosurgeon who coordinated Reggie's care at TIRR Memorial Hermann, one of the country's top rehabilitation hospitals for brain injury. "Near the end, he was beginning to answer questions, starting to vocalize."

A slow descent

As Linda searched for a home for her husband, she got into a dispute with American International Group Inc., the insurance carrier for KBR.

Linda hired a lawyer, and AIG relented, allowing Reggie to be placed in an adult foster care home near Grants Pass, where he and Linda grew up.

The lawyer, Roger Hawkins of Los Angeles, said it was the least Reggie

deserved.

"You look in his eyes and you see that somewhere, he realizes what is going on," Hawkins said. "He's sitting there with his arm missing and knowing that he's never going to get better."

Reggie's mental state, however, declined after leaving Houston in January 2005. Before, he spoke. Now, he descended into long silences broken only by grunts.

Time marches on

Linda died July 10. She had been hospitalized after suffering respiratory distress, family members said.

Reggie let out a wail when relatives told him the news. "I had never heard anything like that before," said Bev Glasgow, who runs Reggie's current foster home.

Glasgow arranged for a van to take Reggie to a memorial service for his wife. It was held in a state park alongside the Rogue River. Under the shade of scrub oak and aspen, he watched as Linda's family and friends sang "Amazing Grace" and looked at old photos of the couple.

Diane Firestone, Reggie's sister, visited him shortly after Linda's death. She said the family accepted that Reggie's condition was unlikely to change. But, she said, they did not believe his sacrifices had been adequately recognized, by his company or the country.

She knelt beside her brother and asked him about the attack on his convoy.

"Hey, Reg," she said. "Do you know it's been five years? It doesn't seem that long to me. Does it seem that long to you?"

Reggie blinked twice, hard — his signal for yes.

Freeze will make seniors scrimp

BY MATT SEDENSKY
The Associated Press

PEMBROKE PINES, Fla. — If her checks were bigger, 76-year-old Agnes Conti might be able to spring for a better cut of meat for her pot roast. She could afford to send her nine grandchildren more than \$20 for their birthdays and Christmas.

If only. The government has said the Social Security checks Conti and tens of millions of other seniors rely on as their primary source of income will not increase next year as consumer prices have fallen overall. And while the retired hospital clerk will get by, she'll be watching her spending even closer, knowing she can't expect the annual raise she's been accustomed to.

"We were good citizens all our lives. We went to work, we lived by the book, we weren't on wel-



J. PAT CARTER/AP

Retired truck driver Frank Ferreira, 90, discusses Social Security Thursday in Pembroke Pines, Fla. There will be no cost-of-living increase for nearly 50 million Social Security recipients next year.

fare, we didn't ask the city for anything," Conti said while taking a break from crafts at a senior center here. "And what do we get?"

At the Southwest Focal Point Senior Center in this Fort Lauderdale suburb, seniors lamented the cost-of-living freeze, praised a White House plan for \$250 checks to soften the blow, but took all of the news in stride, saying they've had a lifetime of experience living on a fixed income and would manage with the money they currently receive.

Frank Ferreira sits in the center's lobby, near a decorative fireplace and an autumn centerpiece. The 90-year-old retired truck driver loves to sing, even practicing on a karaoke machine at home.

He gets about \$890 a month from Social Security, most of which he hands over to his daughter to help pay his share of the bills.

The money isn't the biggest issue, Ferreira said. It's the message the government is sending about caring for seniors.

"I could use a little more, but that's all right, I get along," he said. "But I think that we deserve it, the elderly. You can't just discard them. You've got to help them."

The freeze in next year's checks is the first since automatic Social Security cost-of-living increases were adopted in 1975, and follows a 5.8 percent increase in January, the largest since 1982. By law, the adjustments are pegged to inflation, which is negative this year.

Interracial couple denied marriage license in La.

By MARY FOSTER
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A white Louisiana justice of the peace said he refused to issue a marriage license to an interracial couple out of concern for any children the couple might have.

Keith Bardwell, justice of the peace in Tangipahoa Parish, says it is his experience that most interracial marriages do not last long.

"I'm not a racist. I just don't believe in mixing the races that way," Bardwell said Thursday. "I have piles and piles of black friends. They come to my home, I marry them, they use my bathroom. I treat them just like everyone else."

Bardwell said he asks everyone who calls about marriage if they are a mixed-race couple. If they are, he does not marry them, he said.

Bardwell said he has discussed the topic with blacks and whites, along with witnessing some interracial marriages. He came to the conclusion that most of black society does not readily accept offspring of such relationships, and neither does white society, he said.

"There is a problem with both groups accepting a child from such a marriage," Bardwell said. "I think those children suffer and

I won't help put them through it." If I did an interracial marriage for one couple, I must do the same for all, he said.

"I try to treat everyone equally," he said.

Bardwell estimates that he has refused to marry about four couples during his career, all in the past two years.

Beth Humphrey, 30, and 32-year-old Terence McKay, both of Hammond, say they will consult the U.S. Justice Department about filing a discrimination complaint.

Humphrey, an account manager for a marketing firm, said she and McKay, a welder, just returned to Louisiana. She is white and he is black. She plans to enroll in the University of New Orleans to pursue a master's degree in minority politics.

"That was one thing that made this so unbelievable," she said. "It's not something you expect in this day and age."

Humphrey said she called Bardwell on Oct. 6 to inquire about getting a marriage license signed. She says Bardwell's wife told her that Bardwell will not sign marriage licenses for interracial couples. Bardwell suggested the couple go to another justice of the peace.

"We are looking forward to having children," Humphrey said. "And all our friends and co-workers have been very supportive."

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- 8 GB model: The Effective Cost of ¥0 is based on a payment plan of 24 monthly installments of ¥1,280 (tax included). (Payment over 26 months, with an annual interest rate of 0%). Single-payment price is ¥30,720.
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IN THE WORLD

Bombing at Pakistani police station kills 13



ANJUM NAVEED/AP

Pakistanis pass by coffins following a funeral for police officers killed by gunmen in Lahore, Pakistan, on Thursday.

BY RIAZ KHAN
The Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Three suicide attackers, including a woman, attacked a police station in northwestern Pakistan, killing 13 people Friday while army airstrikes killed a dozen suspected militants in a Taliban stronghold ahead of an expected ground offensive.

The bombing in Peshawar city was the latest in a surge of terrorist attacks over the past 12 days that has killed more than 150 people and underscored the power of the Taliban, who have warned the army against launching

any operation in the militants' base close to the Afghan border.

In Islamabad, the army chief met with the prime minister and other political leaders for talks that included plans for an offensive in South Waziristan, a military and an intelligence official said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

The bombings targeted a heavily fortified police station in Peshawar, the main city in the northwest.

One attacker drove a car filled with explosives to the main gate of the police station, as a motorcycle carrying a man and a woman pulled up behind it, Peshawar police chief Liaquat Ali Khan said.

The woman jumped off and ran toward a nearby housing complex where army officers live, while the man smashed the motorcycle into the car, which exploded into a huge fireball, he said. Police shot at the woman, who detonated explosives she was wearing.

The blast destroyed part of the station and a mosque next to it.

The blast killed 13 people, including three police officers, two women and two children, said Gul Khan, a local police official. Fifteen others were wounded.



REMY DE LA MAUVINIÈRE/AP

Farmers protest grain prices that fail to match production costs on the Champs-Elysees in Paris on Friday. About 150 growers blocked off the famous shopping avenue and burned tires and hay. Firefighters quickly put out the burning hay.

Farmers torch hay to protest grain prices

BY RACHEL KUROWSKI
The Associated Press

PARIS — French farmers struggling with slumping grain prices blanketed the Champs-Elysees with bales of hay and set them ablaze Friday, and blocked highways around the country as they demanded government help.

About 150 farmers blocked traffic and unloaded hay and tires onto the most famous shopping street in Paris. The protesters set the hay on fire before firefighters quickly extinguished the flames.

Grain farmers were staging nationwide protests to call attention to their difficulties as food prices have fallen from highs in 2007.

Protesters disrupted traffic on several highways, from Toulouse in southern France to Calais on the English Channel and Moselle in the northeast.

"Mr. Sarkozy, agriculture merits as much as the banking or automobile sectors," the FNSEA union said on its Web site, referring to emergency aid the French

government offered banks and carmakers to help them weather the global economic crisis.

Agriculture is still one of the most shielded economic sectors in the 27-nation European Union, but it has not been able to protect farmers from the global financial crisis that caused demand to crash. EU officials insist they still intend to gradually create freer markets for European farm products.

French farmers receive subsidies under the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy, which in 2008 gave out \$71 billion, mostly to large companies.

FNSEA chief Jean-Michel Lemetayer appealed to the government for a "major emergency plan" including tax cuts to help French farmers compete with European rivals. Lemetayer also wants \$1.5 billion in interest- and fee-free loans for farmers.

Agriculture Minister Bruno Le Maire said he would urge President Nicolas Sarkozy to reduce the tax burden on farmers this

year.

Le Maire predicted overall agricultural revenue would drop by up to 20 percent in 2009 after a 20 percent drop in 2008.

After the Champs-Elysees action, farmers gathered in front of the gold-domed Invalides, home to Napoleon's tomb. Some wore signs with a picture of a drowning person, with the caption: "Sarkozy: Agriculture, should it pay such a price?"

Fabien Pigeon, a wheat farmer from the Paris region, said he is \$341,872 in debt.

"We sell at less than 30 percent the cost of production. The cost to produce a ton of wheat is 134 euros, but the price of a ton is less than 100 euros. Two years ago, the production cost was 110 euros and the price was 200 euros," he said.

The grain farmers' protest comes after dairy farmers dumped rivers of milk across fields in France, Belgium and other countries to protest collapsing milk prices.

U.N.: World's hungry will keep growing without investment

The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — A record 1.02 billion people worldwide are hungry and a new report says the number will increase if governments do not spend more on agriculture. According to the U.N. food agency, which issued the report, 30 countries now require emergency aid, including 20 in Africa.

"We know a child dies every six seconds of malnutrition," said Otiwe Igbuzor, the head of international campaigns for Action-Aid International.

Spiraling food prices have added to hardships, especially in the world's most desperate countries where the poor could barely afford a single daily meal to begin with. The inflated prices — which caused riots across the globe last year — have stabilized but remain comparatively high, especially in the developing world, Jacques Diouf, director general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, told AP Television News.

The world's most populous region, Asia and the Pacific, has the largest number of hungry people — 642 million — followed by Sub-Saharan Africa with 265 million.

The FAO says global food out-

Group lauds efforts to feed children

BLANTYRE, Malawi — In a report released Friday, ActionAid International ranked the most successful developing nations, with Brazil taking the lead, for cutting child malnutrition by 73 percent in six years.

"Who's Really Fighting Hunger" said Brazil cut child malnutrition by investing in small-holder farmers and strong social welfare policies.

Also noted was Malawi, which spent \$183 million to provide farmers with fertilizer, resulting in 1.3 million metric tons of surplus maize.

From The Associated Press

put must increase by 70 percent to feed a projected population of 9.1 billion in 2050.

To achieve that, poor countries will need \$44 billion in annual agricultural aid, compared with the current \$7.9 billion, to increase access to irrigation systems and modern machinery, build roads and train farmers.



RICCARDO DE LUCA/AP

Josette Sheeran, executive director of the U.N. World Food Programme, speaks in Rome on Wednesday.

S. Korean accused of leaking military secrets

SEOUL — A retired South Korean air force major-general was arrested Friday on suspicion of passing classified information to a Swedish firm, a report said.

The suspect, identified by the surname Kim, allegedly gave the Seoul branch office of defense firm Saab confidential information about a multimillion-dollar South Korean project to develop fighter jets, the Yonhap news agency said, citing prosecutors.

He is accused of taking cell phone photos of classified documents and translating the material into English from August 2008 through May.

Australian baby survives train hitting stroller

MELBOURNE, Australia — Police in Australia say a 6-month-old baby has miraculously survived a train hitting his stroller that had rolled onto the tracks.

Security video footage released Friday shows the mother looking away for a moment when the stroller suddenly rolls off the edge of a station platform and onto the tracks. The mother panics as she looks back and sees the oncoming train hit the stroller.

Strong quake rocks western Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A strong undersea earthquake caused minor damage and made buildings in Indonesia's capital sway Friday, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

The epicenter of the latest quake was in the Sunda Strait off the western coast of Java and had a preliminary magnitude of 6.4, Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said.

Zimbabwe's Tsvangirai boycotts government

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Zimbabwe's prime minister announced he was boycotting the country's troubled unity government Friday, citing the "persecution" of a top aide being tried on what are widely seen as trumped-up coup allegations.

At a news conference Friday, longtime opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai said his party would not attend Cabinet meetings or engage in other executive work with President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF party.

From The Associated Press

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October						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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Philippines brace for another storm

Residents recovering from recent typhoons asked to evacuate homes

BY TERESA CEROJANO

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Officials told residents still reeling from mudslides that recently buried hundreds in the northern Philippine mountains to be ready to abandon their homes again if a storm approaching Friday becomes the third typhoon in a month to hit the country.

The warning came after back-to-back storms since Sept. 26 caused the worst flooding in 40 years in and around the capital Manila and unleashed landslides in the Cordillera mountains in the north of the country, killing 773 people and affecting more than 7 million.

Tropical Storm Lupit may intensify into a super typhoon by the time it makes landfall next week with winds up to 143 miles per hour, forecasters said. It was expected to enter Philippine waters late Friday.

"We are still retrieving our dead and here comes [Lupit]," Gov. Nestor Fongwan of Benguet province said in a radio interview. "I hope it does not hit us."

At least 288 people were killed in last week's landslides in Benguet province.

Disaster-relief officials in the Cordillera region advised thousands of residents to be prepared to move to safer ground to avoid the threat of mudslides that last week buried dozens of mountain-side houses with entire families, blocked roads and isolated towns for days.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center, operated by the U.S. Navy in Hawaii, projected Lupit may make landfall Wednesday in northeastern Isabela or Cagayan provinces and exit the Philippines through northwestern Illocos provinces the same day.



PAT ROCHE/AP

Residents use an elevated footbridge built on a road intersection in Pasig City, Philippines, on Friday. As people try to normalize their lives amid flood waters brought by back-to-back typhoons, another storm is moving closer.

Post-Soviet force wraps large military exercise

BY PETER LEONARD

The Associated Press

MATYBULAK, Kazakhstan — A newly formed NATO-style rapid-reaction force of former Soviet nations wrapped up its first large-scale exercises Friday with a dramatic show of firepower that shattered the quiet of a Central Asian plain.

The maneuvers in southern Kazakhstan were part of a Russian bid to increase the power and status of the seven-nation Collective Security Treaty Organization military bloc that Moscow hopes will counterbalance NATO.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev watched the more

than 7,000 troops with his counterparts from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, all dressed in desert camouflage.

The leaders of members Belarus and Uzbekistan did not attend, however, which may raise concerns about cohesion in the fledgling alliance.

CSTO officials said Friday the exercise was meant to test the new rapid-reaction force and improve coordination among armed forces in the event of an attack against any member state — something that has worried some Central Asian nations that share borders with Afghanistan or Pakistan.

"It is written in the rules of



DMITRY ASTAKHOV, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SERVICE/AP

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, left, and Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmon talk at Matybulak base in Kazakhstan on Friday.

this organization that we will defend any member of the CSTO from extremists, terrorists and drug-traffickers," Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev told reporters.

The military maneuvers began in early October.

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THE NEW SANNO

MI5 chief: U.K. tries to avoid torture

The Associated Press

LONDON — The head of Britain's domestic spy agency said Friday that Britain's security services try to make sure they do not collude in the torture or mistreatment of detainees by foreign governments but acknowledged it was not possible to guarantee that it never happened.

Jonathan Evans, director-general of domestic security agency MI5, said that following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, Britain had to work with other countries that had

more experience dealing with al-Qaida-related terrorism, even if those countries operated on different standards.

"Our intelligence resources were not adequate to the situation we faced and the root of the terrorist problem was in parts of the world where the standards and practices of the local security apparatus were very far removed from our own," he said.

Evans made his comments at a speech at his former college, Bristol University, Thursday evening.

Evans said he did not condone

all aspects of U.S. policy but said intelligence sharing with U.S. authorities was vital.

"In my view we would have been derelict in our duty if we had not worked, circumspectly, with overseas liaisons who were in a position to provide intelligence that could safeguard this country from attack," he said.

Evans said Britain's security services "work hard to ensure that we do not collude in torture or mistreatment."

Evans' speech came a month after Britain's foreign intelli-

gence agency, MI6, reported one of its officers to authorities amid concerns over the U.K.'s possible complicity in torture. Police are also investigating claims that an MI5 officer was complicit in the mistreatment of a former Guantanamo Bay detainee.

The British government was forced to admit last year that one of its remote outposts — the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia — had twice been used by the United States as a refueling stop for the secret transfer of two terrorism suspects. Human rights

group say the practice of transferring suspects without formal extradition proceedings opens the door for third-party countries to torture and interrogate suspects outside international standards.

"I do not defend the abuses that have recently come to light within the U.S. system since 9/11," he said. "But it is important to recognize that we do not control what other countries do, that operational decisions have to be taken with the knowledge available."

Expert: Man was near his wife during scuba death

By MASON MARCUS
The Associated Press

TORTOLA, British Virgin Islands — A Rhode Island man accused of killing his wife during a scuba dive was near her when she died, an expert testified Thursday, despite the defendant's claim that the two went their separate ways underwater.

Dr. Tom Neuman, an expert in diving deaths, said medical reports indicate that Shelley Tyre stopped breathing at a point in the dive when her husband, David Swain, could still have been nearby.

Swain said he and his wife descended together and headed toward a wreck site off the British Virgin Islands and then parted ways. Swain later surfaced without his

wife, and another diver found her body.

Neuman testified it would have taken about seven minutes to reach the wreck site, and Tyre stopped breathing about eight minutes into the dive.

A torn mask and a fin jammed into the sand near her body "bespeaks some sort of violent activity," Neuman said.

His testimony echoed that of Dr. Bruce

Allen Hyma, chief pathologist at Schneider Hospital in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Hyma said the air in Tyre's tank was not contaminated, and that she did not have any diseases or scuba-related illnesses.

"This death is not a natural death. It is not a suicide. It is not an accident. It is a homicidal drowning," Hyma said Wednesday.

Swain has maintained his innocence.



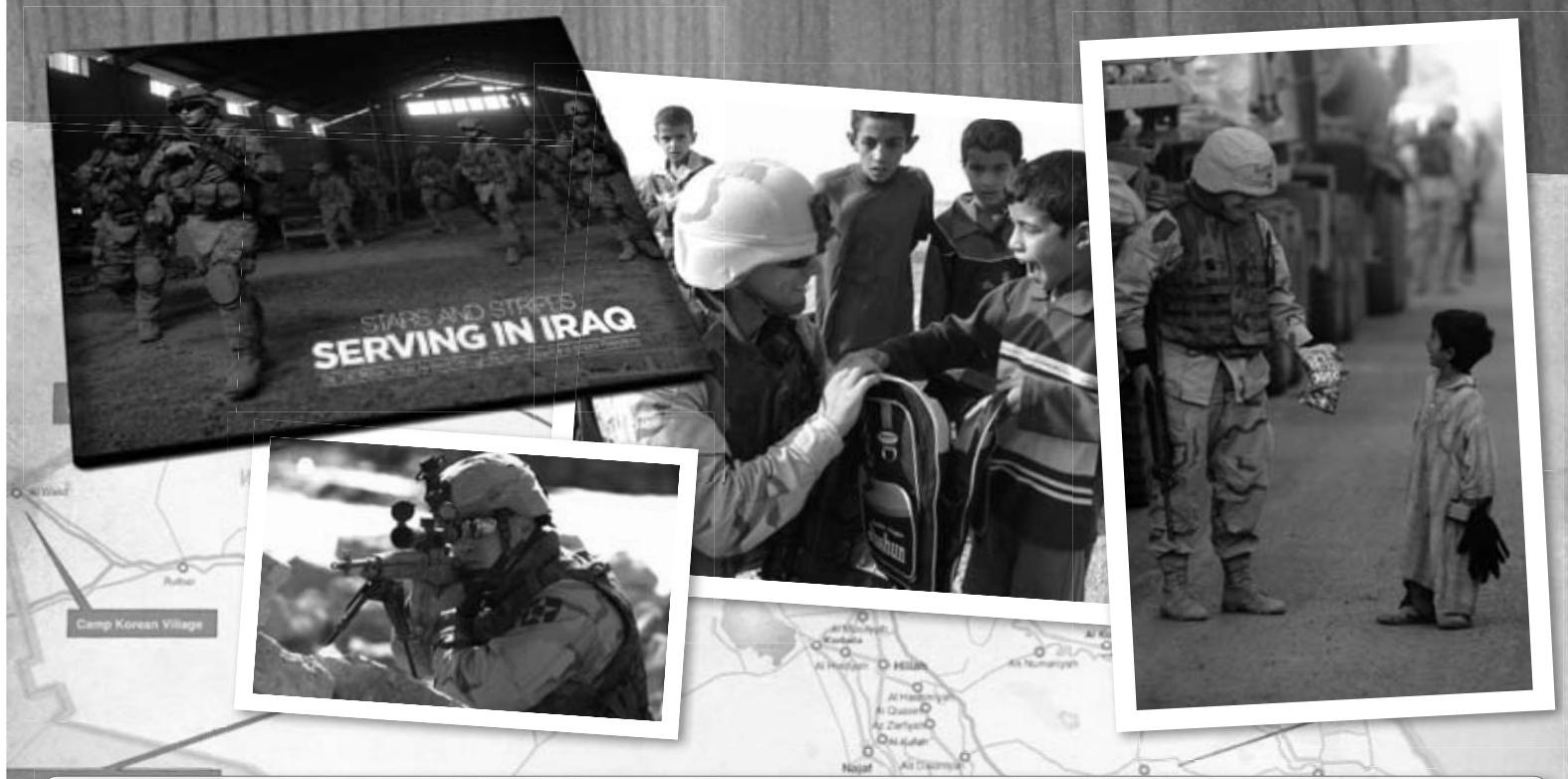
TV Listing

CENTRAL EUROPE	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12:00 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	-	-
12:30 AM	Army NewsWatch	This Week in the Pentagon	FNG	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	DownRange	Grill Sergeants, The
01:00 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
01:30 AM	DownRange	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	This Week in the Pentagon
02:00 AM	-	Recon	Recon Revisited	FNG	Recon Revisited	Recon Revisited	USARJ This Week
02:30 AM	-	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	Grill Sergeants, The	FNG
03:00 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Air Force Football with Troy Calhoun	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
03:30 AM	FNG	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	Battleground
03:45 AM	-	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	-
04:00 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	Grill Sergeants, The	FNG	Recon Revisited	Recon Revisited
04:30 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
05:00 AM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
05:30 AM	EXchange On Air	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Today's Air Force
06:00 AM	All Hands TV	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	FNG
06:30 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	Army NewsWatch
07:00 AM	Recon Revisited	FNG	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report
07:15 AM	-	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	-
07:30 AM	American Veteran, The	Recon	EXchange On Air	Recon	Balad and Beyond	Recon Revisited	Grill Sergeants, The
08:00 AM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
08:30 AM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
09:00 AM	This Week in the Pentagon	Tour of Duty	Today's Air Force	American Veteran, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Army NewsWatch	Ft Hood On Track
09:30 AM	Army NewsWatch	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	Recon Revisited	FNG	EXchange On Air	This Week in the Pentagon
10:00 AM	Grill Sergeants, The	VA News	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Recon
10:15 AM	-	Pacific Report	-	-	-	-	-
10:30 AM	USARJ This Week	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	Air Force Football with Troy Calhoun	Recon Revisited
11:00 AM	Recon	EXchange On Air	This Week in the Pentagon	Ft Hood On Track	This Week in the Pentagon	Today's Air Force	Army NewsWatch
11:30 AM	FNG	Army NewsWatch	FNG	Today's Air Force	American Veteran, The	All Hands TV	This Week in the Pentagon
12:00 PM	Today's Air Force	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Grill Sergeants, The
12:30 PM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
01:00 PM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
01:30 PM	Recon Revisited	Recon	Recon Revisited	Air Force Football with Troy Calhoun	Recon Revisited	Recon Revisited	Balad and Beyond
02:00 PM	This Week in the Pentagon	This Week in the Pentagon	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	All Hands TV
02:30 PM	Grill Sergeants, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report	Pacific Report
02:45 PM	-	-	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report	AFN Europe Report
03:00 PM	Around the Services	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Special Event Encore	Army NewsWatch
03:30 PM	Around the Services	Recon Revisited	USARJ This Week	This Week in the Pentagon	Grill Sergeants, The	All Hands TV	Today's Air Force
04:00 PM	Around the Services	Today's Air Force	Grill Sergeants, The	Tour of Duty	Army NewsWatch	Today's Air Force	Recon
04:30 PM	Around the Services	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	This Week in the Pentagon
05:00 PM	Around the Services	Pacific Report	This Week in the Pentagon	EXchange On Air	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	FNG
05:15 PM	-	AFN Europe Report	-	-	-	-	-
05:30 PM	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty	Fit for Duty
06:00 PM	Benning Report, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Recon	Today's Air Force	American Veteran, The	Grill Sergeants, The	Around the Services
06:30 PM	Grill Sergeants, The	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services
07:00 PM	VA News	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	Around the Services
07:15 PM	Pacific Report	-	-	-	-	-	-
07:30 PM	This Week in the Pentagon	All Hands TV	Today's Air Force	This Week in the Pentagon	All Hands TV	AFN Europe Report	Around the Services
07:45 PM	-	-	-	-	-	Pacific Report	-
08:00 PM	Balad and Beyond	Recon	Recon Revisited	Grill Sergeants, The	Recon Revisited	EXchange On Air	Around the Services
08:30 PM	FNG	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	State Department Daily Briefing	1st Air Force Now
09:00 PM	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground	Battleground
09:30 PM	Today's Air Force	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	FNG
10:00 PM	Recon	Today's Air Force	Army NewsWatch	All Hands TV	Ft Hood On Track	This Week in the Pentagon	This Week in the Pentagon
10:30 PM	American Veteran, The	American Veteran, The	This Week in the Pentagon	Recon	This Week in the Pentagon	Pacific Report	Benning Report, The
10:45 PM	-	-	-	-	-	AFN Europe Report	-
11:00 PM	USARJ This Week	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange	DownRange
11:30 PM	Grill Sergeants, The	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	Around the Services	-

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FACES

Taylor Swift to host 'SNL'

Taylor Swift will have the stage to herself next month — with no interruptions — when she hosts comedy TV show "Saturday Night Live."

The only question is: Who will play Kanye West?

Last month, West hijacked Swift's acceptance speech after she became the first country star to win best female video at the MTV Video Music Awards. West grabbed the microphone and declared that Beyoncé's nominated video for "Single Ladies" was one of the "best videos of all time."

"I've been thinking about skit ideas for a long time," Swift, 19, said. "There are definitely some hilarious things that have happened to me over the past couple of months that I think will be pretty substantial skits."

Swift called the chance to host on Nov. 7 "mind-blowing" and says it's been difficult to keep it a secret since producers asked her during the summer. She said she loved her experience in January when she was a musical guest, and will again perform when she hosts.

"I love being around people

Clooney: Media not what it used to be

George Clooney thinks something has gone wrong when the media prints celebrity rumor and innuendo as fact.

The star, a journalist's son, said a news story used to require "two reliable sources, and that doesn't seem to exist as much anymore."

Clooney spoke Thursday at the London Film Festival, where one documentary in the lineup reveals how easily some newspapers can be duped into running fake stories.

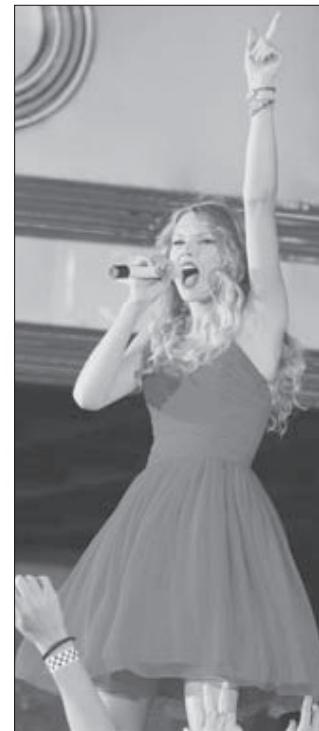
The makers of "Starsucks" fed false tips to British tabloids and then watched as some, though not all, ran them as legitimate news. The hoaxes included a story about Amy Winehouse's trademark beehive hairdo catching fire.

"The problem," Clooney said, "is that there's so little reporting any more Somebody will write a story and it will be in 1,800 different outlets from one person's story."

He said he understood the pressures journalists face.

"I'm the son of a newsman, I grew up around news," said Clooney, whose father is news anchor Nick Clooney. "It's a tricky thing. You're going to have to sell papers. I get it."

— The Associated Press



AP

Taylor Swift soon will join the ranks of those who have sung and acted on "Saturday Night Live."



AP

George Clooney, in London with fans Oct. 14, blames the messenger.

Silverman: Sell the Vatican, end world hunger

Comedian Sarah Silverman has a new proposal for ending world hunger: Sell the Vatican.

In a somewhat profane monologue that hit YouTube in time for the U.N. World Food Day on Oct. 16, Silverman suggests that it's time for the pope to "move out of your house that is a city" and use the proceeds to feed the world's poor.

"On an ego level alone you will be the biggest hero in the history of ever!" she exclaimed. "Sell the Vatican. Feed the world."

The Vatican clearly has no plans to follow suit. On Thursday, a spokesman declined to comment. But the Catholic League, the U.S. Catholic civil rights organization, denounced Silverman and cable broadcaster HBO for her "obscene" and "filthy diatribe."

In a statement, it noted that such an attack would never have been leveled against, say, the chief rabbi of Jeru-

salem or the state of Israel and added that the "Catholic Church operates more hospitals and feeds more of the poor than any private institution in the world."

Yet the Rev. James Martin, culture editor of the Jesuit magazine America, says Silverman may be onto something. In an online article, Martin noted that Jesus himself told his followers to sell what they had and give it to the poor.

"Of course, Pope Benedict XVI could not 'sell' any of the treasures of the Vatican, the same way that your local archbishop couldn't sell off the cathedral at a whim; they are not his, they are the church's," Martin wrote. "And the church is not simply the hierarchy but the entire people of God."

But he added: "Still, perhaps Ms. Silverman, in her postmodern, potty-mouthed way, is on to something. Like Jesus was. Sell the Vatican? Well, maybe not everything, but perhaps a

statue or two?"

For the record, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, which just released its annual report on the state of world hunger, says global food output will have to increase by 70 percent to feed a projected population of 9.1 billion in 2050.

To achieve that, poor countries will need \$44 billion in annual agricultural aid, compared with the current \$7.9 billion, the Rome-based FAO said. Overall, an annual net investment in agriculture of \$83 billion is needed to feed the world.

Even if the pope were to sell the Vatican, it wouldn't be enough.

In 2004, the Vatican disclosed that the Holy See's real estate was worth 700 million euros, or about \$908 million at the time. That doesn't include St. Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel, which the Vatican termed priceless.

— The Associated Press



AP

Sarah Silverman has a new proposal for ending world hunger.



AP file

Once again, the spot above the crypt of movie star Marilyn Monroe at Westwood Village Memorial Park Cemetery in Los Angeles is open to the highest bidder.

Crypt above Monroe once again for sale

The crypt above Marilyn Monroe is going back on the auction block.

Bidding for the marble mausoleum crypt will start at \$500,000 beginning Oct. 19, according to organizer Eric Gazin of AuctionCause.com. A previous \$4.6 million bid for the space fell through in August when Elsie Poncher first attempted to auction off her late husband's crypt.

Gazin says he believes the crypt at the Westwood Village Memorial Park Cemetery will fetch "millions of dollars" at auction. Other celebrities including Farrah Fawcett, Natalie Wood, Rodney Dangerfield, Dean Martin, Jack Lemmon, Eva Gabor and Truman Capote have also been laid to rest at the cemetery.

— The Associated Press

This florist is always open

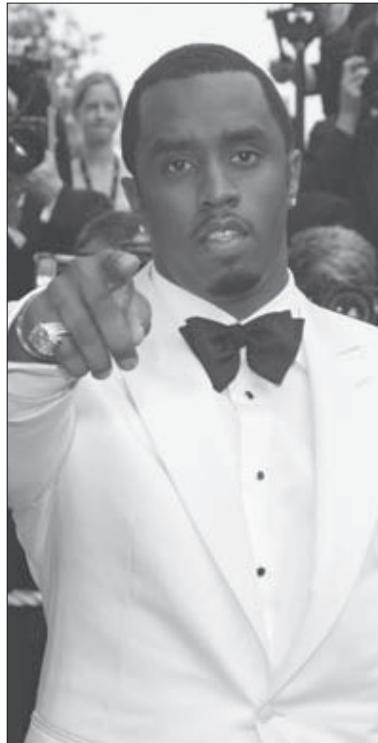
They don't call Ozzy Osbourne the Prince Of Darkness for nothing. The rocker admits he once stole flowers from a graveyard and gave them to wife Sharon Osbourne as a gift. He was very drunk and forgot to take the note of condolence off the fresh cemetery bouquet, so Sharon saw right through his romantic ruse.

— Wireless Flash



Ozzy Osbourne's wife, Sharon, is clearly a long-suffering type of gal.

Walter Scott's Personality PARADE



AP file photos

From left to right: Van Halen singer David Lee Roth, actress Katie Holmes and entertainer Sean "P. Diddy" Combs have run the NYC Marathon — actor Ed Norton's up next.

Q How many celebrities have run the New York City Marathon? — Pat Stafford, Wheeling, W.Va.

A A lot! P. Diddy, David Lee Roth, and Katie Holmes, among many others, have all completed the five-borough, 26.2-mile ordeal. The one we have our eye on this year is actor Edward Norton, 40, who trained with Maasai tribesmen in Kenya this summer and is running to benefit the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust (check out his training photos, and this worthy charity, at maasaimarathon.com). "Winning has never been in the equation," first-timer Norton laughs. "I call it completing with honor."

Q How's Carrie Fisher doing? She sure has been through plenty. — Ellen Hall, Oklahoma City, Okla.

A You said it. With bipolar disorder, drug addiction, a tumultuous personal life, and a lengthy, productive career as an actress and writer, Fisher, 52, has come a long way since she broke out as Princess Leia in "Star Wars" (1977). Her play, "Wishful Drinking" (now on Broadway), covers the whole ride, including electroshock therapy for depression. "I was very frightened," she tells us. "Electroshock has a stigma. But it's been incredibly helpful. I do maintenance every six weeks or so." And how's her mother, Debbie Reynolds? "She's great," Fisher says. "She lives next door, so I see her a lot."

Q Macy Gray's 2007 album, "Big," didn't do so well. Did it hurt her career? — A. Miller, Orlando, Fla.

A Her career, maybe, but not her spirits. "It went aluminum in the U.S., but out here it's doing pretty good," the singer-songwriter told us recently from Moscow, where she was finishing up a world tour. As for her recent "Dancing With the Stars" experience — she was quickly voted off — Gray is lucky she still has a day job. Her new album, tentatively titled "The Gray Life," comes out next year.

Q Sen. Edward Kennedy received full Catholic rites at his funeral. Since he was divorced and remarried, how was that possible? — Mary Ellen Donaghay, Richmond, Va.

A Kennedy's funeral set off protests among conservative Catholics, due less to the annulment of his first marriage than to his vigorous support of abortion rights. However, Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, who attended the funeral, strongly defended Kennedy's receiving full rites, citing the late senator's penitent correspondence with Pope Benedict XVI and his request to the pontiff for prayers at the end of his life.



Actress Barbara Eden, shown May 16, is still acting every chance she gets at age 75.

Q Lots of novelists, including Carl Hiaasen and Jane Smiley, are writing young-adult novels lately. Are they in it just for the money? — Jane O'Hara, Pittsburgh

A There's another consideration. "It's fun," says the Pulitzer Prize-winning Smiley, whose first YA novel, "The Georges and the Jewels," came out last month. "Since we want kids to read good books, why not try a hand at writing them?"

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Want the facts? Opinions? Truth? Send your questions to Walter Scott at Box 5001, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163-5001. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.



Macy Gray hopes her next album, coming out next year, gets a better reception than her 2007 release, "Big."

Sunday Horoscope

The morning moon is listless, indecisive and conducive to fuzzy thoughts and emotions so mild they're almost unreadable. As the day progresses, a stronger energy takes hold. And if you make an effort to get involved with something that resonates strongly with who you are, you could even reach the realm of passion.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 18). Your personality shines strong this year, and you will attract the right kind of interest in your projects and endeavors. Excellent publicity will help you move to the next level in your business. You're smitten with a special person, and your adventures together make the new year one for the books. Sagittarius and Capricorn people adore you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). What you now find irritating, you will soon deem "hilarious." Distance brings perspective. It won't take long for the shift. Get away for the afternoon, and then come back to your so-called irritant. That's when the laughter starts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Say nice things to the not-so-nice people. No one is particularly annoyed with you, but kindness is like putting good karma in the bank. You'll cash it out later.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Doing the same activity a different way can help you out of a rut. Take on the small things — they work like magic to get you unstuck. Button your shirt from bottom to top, or hold your spoon with the other hand.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Remember that sweetheart from by-gone times? The one who turned out to be not so sweet, after all? Well, you'll meet a similar type in the days to come. Remember past lessons, and approach with guarded optimism.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Who you are standing next to will strongly affect how you experience your day. You're confident lately, so approach

those who interest you. Good company makes food taste better and gives everything a pretty sheen, too.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You don't have to sacrifice your comfort in order to chase your dream — well, at least not today. You'll progress in style and barely break a sweat. This is truly a lucky time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). You are bigger than your behaviors. Experiment with your daily habits just to shake things up. Give up one thing and see what falls in the gap to replace it. You can always go back to the way things were later.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You are an unusually sensitive participant in life. Those who can appreciate your talent may be rare, but they are extraordinarily generous, too. You will be offered something that only an elite few will ever experience.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A celebrity's irresponsible behavior gives you pause. Is the whole world going nuts? Today a stranger's act of kindness helps convince you of the inherent goodness of 98 percent of the human race.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You do not always feel like being the responsible one, which is one of the reasons you and your partner make a good match. He/she kindles the fire; you light it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your loyalty to a principle is sometimes at odds with your loyalty to people, and this is one of those times. If you must side against a friend, make sure he or she understands why.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). The difference between the "haves" and the "have nots" is not always so apparent. Which camp do you belong in? Depends on what criteria you use. Focus on why you're a "have."

Creators.com

SUDOKU

	8	5		7				
7	3			2	8	4		
					2			
5				8	4			
2		9		5				
	3			9				

Difficulty: Hard

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Yesterday's solution

4	9	7	2	8	1	6	5	3
1	6	2	3	5	7	8	9	4
5	3	8	9	4	6	2	1	7
6	4	3	5	9	2	1	7	8
2	8	1	6	7	4	5	3	9
7	5	9	1	3	8	4	2	6
9	2	5	4	6	3	7	8	1
3	7	4	8	1	5	9	6	2
8	1	6	7	2	9	3	4	5

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Ungrateful girlfriend tests parents' gracious nature

Dear Abby: My husband and I have always had a warm and close relationship with our college-age children. We often host their friends in our home, making certain they're comfortable, well-fed and welcome.

My son brought his girlfriend home for long weekends several times this year. Not once has she said thank you for meals, gifts or entertainment. When I asked her if the standing rib roast I had served was OK — it's my specialty — she said it wasn't cooked the way she likes it. She shows absolutely no interest in us, our home or the community in which our children grew up. She does offer to clear the table, but that's the extent of it. Upon leaving, she will say, "thanks." With the exception of one brief e-mail, we have never received a written note from her.

We love our son, and he may love her. But we're not eager to clean, shop for, cook and host this young lady again. If our son wants to bring her home for another holiday, what do you suggest we say or do?

— Disgusted in Seattle

Dear Disgusted: While your feelings are understandable, and you may be tempted to tell your

son what you have told me, bite your tongue. If you say anything negative about his girlfriend, it will make him defensive and his instinct will be to defend her.

It would not, however, be "attacking" her to gently share with him that you and his father were "disappointed" that you never received a thank-you note from his houseguest, and wonder if she was raised without having been taught the social graces. If he's serious about her, he might clue her in. But if he doesn't, and he wants to bring her home for the holidays, I have the ideal gift for her — a book on etiquette.

Dear Abby: Last week my oldest daughter shocked me by informing me that her father had molested her and her sister many times when they were little. When I told her that I had known nothing about it, she screamed and called me a liar.

Abby, I was in great distress when my children were young. I didn't know what was going on. I divorced him when the two youngest were 5. He was an alcoholic and bipolar, in and out of jail and mental hospitals frequently. I would be in prison today had



I known, because I would have killed him.

Now, 46 years later, I am asking your advice. Is there anything I can do to this child molester? He ruined both of our daughters' lives. My oldest has been drug and alcohol addicted for years. She is only now dealing with her addictions. He lives in a group home for bipolar people and often goes on rampages.

Please direct me to a resource for help. I have been in Al-Anon for 41 years and a born-again Christian for 37 years, which has helped me cope with the 19 years of hell my children and I have lived through.

— Houston Reader

Dear Reader: Talk to your daughters and ask them to report to the police what happened to them. It would be a step in taking back control of their lives, and because their father may have done this more recently with other little girls, the police should know his history. While it may be too late to prosecute your ex-husband for what he did to his daughters, if he has continued molesting, it may not be too late to get him for something he has done more recently.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69406, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

Lien on Me: Woman suspects man's 'riches' are a put-on

My 31-year-old boyfriend has the best clothes, cars, electronics, takes me to the nicest restaurants...you get the picture. He told me he was "an investor," working for himself, making online investments. I eventually asked how he could afford his lifestyle in this economy. He said he "comes from money," and has a trust fund.

To me, the fact that his father's a doctor only confirmed there was family money. After six months, he took me to meet his parents. I assumed we'd pull up to a mansion, but it was an apartment complex reminiscent of college housing! I'm not materialistic. I'm from a blue-collar family and have worked since I was 15 (I'm 27). But after a year together, I'm wondering whether he's a liar with tons of debt. Asking questions is hard because I don't want him to think it's the money I care about. I love him and believe he may be "the one," but may rethink that if he's carrying a million in debt.

Advice Goddess



"grabbing something at the store" means running out fast enough to elude the fat security guard.

You're way overdue for figuring out whether this man and his means are living apart — probably because you're kinda jazzed by all the things money can buy, and feel guilty because of it. Sure, if this guy is on the level, just by being with him, you could eat daily at a fine restaurant, and not because management is nice enough to feed you before your shift.

Keep in mind, you weren't looking down the bar with tiny binoculars to see which guy whipped out a platinum card. You're a hardworking girl who fell for an "investor" with no apparent means of support — unless you count his daddy, supposedly a doctor with piles of money who's living like he just completed his residency to be a lawn doctor.

Your boyfriend may have a trust fund of sorts ("Trust me, Pops, this is the last time you'll have to bail me out"). Even if he has a permanent pipeline to serious family money, can you really respect a 31-year-old man who's still living off Mommy and Daddy? After all, it's not like he's doing it to bring clean water to

poor villagers in Africa. I'd guess that he's day-trading, a profession that works for many like that old joke about how to make a small fortune in aviation (start with a big one). Unfortunately, it's human nature to keep believing that your big score is just around the corner — the corner you hurry your girlfriend by when you're trying to pass off the repo man as a valet with a tow truck.

Appearances can be deceiving — especially to girls too needy for love and fearful of disapproval to say "Yoo-hoo, what's that red flag over there?" Early on, you get information by giving it: talking about how you grew up and how you see money, and drawing his background and values out of him. You look for incongruities (especially outrageous ones) and ask about them until you get satisfactory answers. That's what you need to do now — after laying out your feelings for him and your fears. If he explodes or just stonewalls, the truth is probably what you suspect: A fool and his lines of credit are soon parted, and sure, you'll be able to take your kids to the dentist — as soon as you find a buyer for your left kidney.

Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail AdviceAmy@aol.com (www.advicegoddess.com)

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Fugitive busted through Facebook activity

BY GENE JOHNSON
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Maxi Sopo was living the dream of a fugitive abroad, kicking back on the beaches of Cancun by day, partying in the clubs by night.

Then he did two things that are never a good idea when you're on the run from authorities: He started posting Facebook updates about how much fun he was having — and added a former Justice Department official to his list of friends.

That kind of recklessness landed the 26-year-old native of Cameroon in a Mexico City jail, where he is awaiting extradition to the United States on bank fraud charges. Federal prosecutors say he and an associate falsely obtained more than \$200,000 from Seattle-area banks.

"He was making posts about how beautiful life is and how he was having a good time with his buddies," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Scoville, who helped find Sopo. "He was definitely not living the way we wanted him to be living, given the charges he was facing."

Even in the hold-nothing-back world of social

networking, where police search Facebook photos for evidence of underage drinking, it's rare that a fugitive helps authorities this much.

In status updates, Sopo said he was "loving it" and "living in paradise."

"LIFE IS VERY SIMPLE REALLY!!!!" he wrote on June 21. "BUT SOME OF US HUMANS MAKE A MESS OF IT...REMEMBER AM JUST HERE TO HAVE FUN PARTEEEEEEE."

Sopo, who came to the U.S. around 2003, earned money selling roses in Seattle nightclubs until, according to prosecutors, he moved on to bank fraud.

Prosecutors say he masterminded the bank fraud scheme with Edward Asatoorians, who was convicted by a federal jury in Seattle last week. Testimony at the trial indicated the pair persuaded young co-conspirators to lie about their income to obtain loans for fabricated auto purchases.

Asatoorians is expected to face at least five years in prison when he's sentenced; Sopo could face up to 30 years.



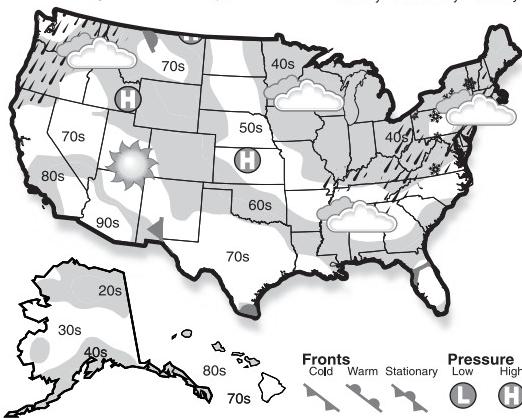
An enlarged profile photo shows fugitive Maxi Sopo on his Facebook page. Sopo was arrested after he added a former Department of Justice official to his friend list.

ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

WEATHER OUTLOOK

National forecast

Forecast highs for Saturday, Oct. 17



Two Low Pressure Systems Move Through Nation

A low pressure system in the Northeast will provide significant precipitation in the Mid-Atlantic and eastern New England. Another low pressure system will instigate widespread rain in the Northwest.

Weather Underground • AP

Friday's global temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	La Paz	66	31	pc
Amsterdam	55	32	Clry	Lima	70	60	Cldy
Athens	60	53	Rain	Lisbon	84	64	Clry
Auckland	62	59	Rain	London	59	49	pc
Baghdad	98	71	pc	Madrid	77	51	Clry
Basra	100	68	Clry	Managua	91	75	Clry
Bahrain	89	79	Clry	Manila	87	74	Rain
Bangkok	90	76	Rain	Mecca	110	78	Clry
Barbados	88	75	Rain	Melbourne	57	44	Rain
Barcelona	67	55	Rain	Mexico City	78	55	pc
Beijing	78	42	Clry	Montevideo	55	37	Clry
Beirut	83	69	pc	Montreal	40	31	pc
Belgrade	50	35	Rain	Moscow	53	41	Rain
Berlin	41	37	Rain	Nairobi	73	58	Rain
Bermuda	75	68	Rain	Nassau	92	77	Rain
Bogota	64	50	Rain	New Delhi	93	75	pc
Brasilia	85	65	pc	Nice	63	51	Clry
Brisbane	82	51	Clry	Osaka	73	53	Clry
Brussels	51	31	Clry	Oslo	47	21	Clry
Bucharest	54	34	pc	Panama	86	73	Rain
Budapest	41	37	Rain	Paris	51	33	Clry
Buenos Aires	60	50	Clry	Perth	82	55	Clry
Cairo	92	72	Clry	Prague	35	33	Snow
Calgary	44	26	Snow	Rio de Janeiro	89	71	Rain
Caracas	91	80	pc	Rome	60	41	Clry
Colombo	87	73	Rain	San Jose	81	63	Rain
Copenhagen	48	37	pc	San Juan	88	80	Rain
Dhahran	95	71	Clry	San Salvador	86	69	Clry
Dhaka	90	77	Rain	Santiago	64	43	pc
Dili	90	72	Clry	Sao Paulo	71	63	Rain
Dubai	97	80	Clry	Sapporo	64	47	Rain
Dublin	58	51	Rain	Seoul	71	46	Clry
Frankfurt	46	28	pc	Singapore	89	77	Rain
Geneva	46	35	Clry	Sofia	55	27	pc
Guatemala	78	62	Rain	Stockholm	46	30	Clry
Hanoi	72	69	Rain	Sydney	73	56	Clry
Harare	90	61	pc	Taipei	77	71	pc
Havana	91	71	Clry	Tegucigalpa	86	57	Clry
Helsinki	41	28	pc	Teheran	80	60	Clry
Hong Kong	84	75	pc	Tel Aviv	90	65	Clry
Islamabad	89	63	Clry	Tokyo	68	60	Clry
Istanbul	67	50	pc	Turin	53	33	Clry
Jakarta	91	75	Clry	Toronto	41	34	Clry
Jerusalem	90	65	Clry	Tunis	70	59	Rain
Johannesburg	79	55	Clry	Valletta	72	62	Rain
Kabul	71	44	Clry	Vancouver	63	47	Rain
Kiev	50	35	pc	Vienna	41	35	Snow
Kuala Lumpur	90	74	Rain	Warsaw	39	33	Rain
Kuwait	102	69	Clry	Zurich	43	27	pc

Saturday's U.S. temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Buffalo	45	32	Clry	Des Moines	48	34	Clry	Jackson, Miss.	57	38	Clry	New Orleans	66	48	Clry	Reno	76	46	PClry	Syracuse	48	34	Clry
Albuquerque	74	51	Clry	Burlington, Vt.	48	30	Clry	Detroit	50	34	Clry	Jacksonville	69	44	Clry	New York City	47	42	Rain	Richmond	53	38	Clry	Tampa	76	53	Clry
Amarillo	70	48	Clry	Casper	67	39	Clry	Duluth	45	33	PClry	Juneau	47	38	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	57	43	Clry	Sacramento	76	55	PClry	Topeka	54	33	Clry
Anchorage	43	32	Clry	Charleston, S.C.	63	43	PClry	El Paso	81	55	Clry	Kansas City	52	33	Clry	North Platte	58	34	Clry	St Louis	51	36	Clry	Tucson	97	67	Clry
Asheville	49	34	Clry	Charlotte, N.C.	57	39	Clry	Fairbanks	30	11	PClry	Key West	87	71	Rain	Oklahoma City	64	46	PClry	St Petersburg	75	61	PClry	Tulsa	59	36	Clry
Atlanta	54	40	Clry	Cheyenne	63	43	Clry	Fargo	46	35	PClry	Little Rock	60	38	Clry	Orlando	77	53	Clry	San Antonio	77	53	Clry	Washington, D.C.	43	39	Rain
Atlantic City	51	44	Rain	Chicago	47	37	Clry	Flagstaff	73	38	Clry	Los Angeles	85	64	Clry	Pendleton	66	47	Rain	San Diego	75	64	Clry	Wichita	57	36	PClry
Austin	74	53	Clry	Cincinnati	48	33	Clry	Grand Rapids	47	29	Clry	Louisville	49	32	Clry	Philadelphia	45	39	Rain	San Francisco	69	56	Clry	Wilkes-Barre	38	34	Snow
Baltimore	43	39	Rain	Cleveland	47	35	Snow	Great Falls	72	50	PClry	Lubbock	71	47	PClry	Phoenix	100	72	Clry	San Juan, P.R.	88	77	Clry	Wilmington, Del.	44	38	Rain
Billings	72	46	PClry	Columbia, S.C.	58	40	Clry	Greensboro, N.C.	55	39	Clry	Memphis	56	39	Clry	Pittsburgh	40	33	Snow	Santa Fe	69	42	Clry				
Birmingham	55	39	Clry	Columbus, Ohio	46	35	Clry	Hartford Spfgld	45	39	Clry	Miami Beach	86	62	Rain	Portland, Maine	49	38	Clry	Seattle	58	48	Rain	Shreveport	68	41	PClry
Bismarck	56	38	Clry	Concord, N.H.	48	35	Clry	Helena	70	43	PClry	Midland-Odessa	74	49	PClry	Providence	50	43	Rain	Spokane	62	45	Rain				
Boise	76	51	Clry	Dallas-Ft Worth	68	46	Clry	Honolulu	87	76	PClry	Milwaukee	48	34	Clry	Raleigh-Durham	57	40	Clry	Sioux Falls	48	36	Clry				
Boston	49	42	Rain	Dayton	47	31	Clry	Houston	75	50	PClry	Mpls-St Paul	47	36	Clry	Rapid City	66	42	Clry								
Brownsville	81	62	PClry	Denver	69	40	Clry	Indianapolis	51	33	Clry	Nashville	52	37	Clry												

National temperature extremes
High: Thurs., 103, Laredo, Texas
Low: Fri. 16, Clayton Lake, Maine

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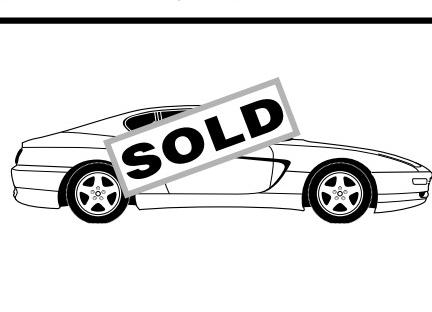
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Pig stolen from new ag barn

TX CORPUS CHRISTI —

The case of a purloined pig in Corpus Christi could affect the 17-year-old owner's financial plans for college.

Police are investigating the theft of a student's \$600 pig from a pen at the new 38,000-square-foot agricultural barn at Calallen High School.

Senior Weldon Kemp saw the female red Duroc one day and it was gone the next.

Kemp told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times that the theft "hit pretty hard, these pigs aren't cheap." He said winning a grand prize at a stock show could land him \$10,000 for college.

Man jailed for biting 5-year-old boy's face

MI MUSKEGON — A Michigan man has been sentenced to 45 days in jail for biting the face of his girlfriend's 5-year-old son.

Randall Kirk McGee, 37, of North Muskegon pleaded no contest to third-degree child abuse.

Police said McGee bit the boy on Feb. 11. The child's mother, Renae Baker, said her son bit McGee while McGee was trying to help the boy brush his teeth. She said McGee bit back.

School officials contacted Child Protective Services and police after noticing the bite marks. Authorities said the boy said it was the only time McGee had physically hurt him.

Winter weather leads to 3 fatalities on roads

ND BISMARCK — An early shot of winter in North Dakota has contributed to at least three fatalities.

The Highway Patrol said two men from Mission, Texas, who were working in an oil field died after their pickup truck rolled in the ditch on icy U.S. Highway 2 near Stanley.

The 57-year-old and 30-year-old victims were not immediately identified. The patrol said one man died at the scene and the other at the hospital in Stanley.

In Stutsman County, a car collided with a pickup on a road covered with slush and snow near Streeter, killing the car's driver. The name of the 48-year-old woman was not immediately released.

Cop among three hikers missing in national park

CA FRESNO — A police officer from Southern California is among three hikers missing in Kings Canyon National Park near Fresno.

Officials said San Bernardino police Officer Lanier Rogers and brothers Jordan Zeman and Jake Zeman were reported missing by their families.

Officials said the men began their six-day, 65-mile hike at the Road's End trail on Oct. 7 and planned to hike to elevations as high as 14,000 feet.

They were scheduled to return to their vehicles Oct. 12.

Heavy rain and snow from a fall storm hampered the search.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Roosters are seized in cockfighting crackdown

TX PORT ARTHUR — A tip led law officers to about 80 roosters suspected of being used in an illegal cockfighting ring in a rural area of Jefferson County.

Port Arthur police helped locate the operation in a wooded area near Port Acres and seize the animals.

Investigators said trees had been cleared and a road led to the compound where dozens of roosters, some of them dead, were found in crude cages.

Animal control supervisor Anthony Mitchell said law officers have broken up four cockfighting operations this year in the Port Arthur area.

Church plans to burn Bibles on Halloween

NC CANTON — A North Carolina pastor said his church plans to burn Bibles and books by Christian authors on Halloween to light a fire under true believers.

Pastor Marc Grizzard told Asheville TV station WLOS that the King James version of the Bible is the only one his small western North Carolina church follows. He said all other versions, such as the



Witches? Too easy

Mochi, left, and Olive are dressed as geisha girls at their home in Huntington Beach, Calif. Owner Lisa Woodruff said the dogs have been dressed as geishas, surfer girls and sushi over the years.

Living Bible, are "satanic" and "perverse" of God's word.

Members of the Amazing Grace Baptist Church also will burn music and books by Christian authors, such as Billy Graham and Rick Warren.

Police: Man tried to eat pot after bust

NY CORTLAND — Deputies said an upstate New York man has been charged with evidence tampering after he was busted for growing marijuana — and then tried to eat the evidence.

Jeremy Wheeler and his father, William Wheeler, were arrested after deputies said they found 116 plants growing in the son's home in Willet. Deputies said Jeremy Wheeler tried to eat some of the plants while being booked.

The 29-year-old Wheeler was also charged with resisting arrest. His 51-year-old father was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana and unlawfully growing the drug.

Party mistakenly picks dead man for panel

AL MOBILE — Reynolds Smith Jr. was a stalwart Democratic voter in Alabama.

But the Alabama Democratic Party overlooked another fact when it appointed Smith to an interim party panel: He died in November at age 83.

Party executive director Jim Spearman told the Press-Register that the mistake was caused by outdated records.

He said the party received Smith's name from a 2006 list of candidates for the Mobile County committee and then used a voter list to verify him as an active voter.

Dancer gets probation in stiletto stabbing

OH AKRON — A woman has been sentenced to a year of probation for attacking a fellow exotic dancer in the face with a stiletto heel at an Ohio club.

In a deal with prosecutors, 22-year-old Chetania Davis pleaded guilty in Akron to a misdemeanor assault charge.

Prosecutors said Davis used the heel to stab her 52-year-old coworker several times April 17 in the club dressing room, causing wounds that required seven staples. It was the older woman's first day on the job.

Police had said she was attacked because Davis didn't think the club needed more dancers.

State panel votes to end ban on duels, prizefights

MI LANSING — Dueling has become less common over the past couple centuries. Likewise, the concern about prizefights.

Both those activities, along with taking a woman against her will and forcing her to marry, would no longer be specifically outlawed in Michigan under measures a legislative committee approved and sent to the full Senate.

The bills will go to the House for consideration once the Senate votes.



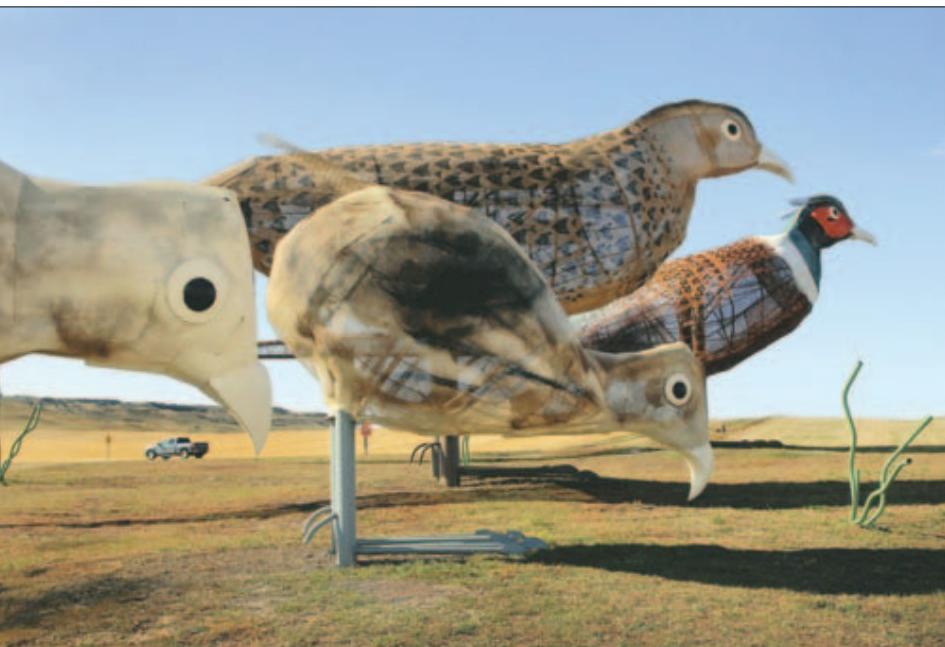
History in a box

Mayor Connie Moran of Ocean Springs, Miss., and local historian Ray L. Belande look over a life-size bronze statue of Ocean Springs founding father and French Canadian explorer Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville that arrived in the city from Canada. The statue, designed by Canadian artist and sculptor Marlene Hilton Moore, will stand in Fort Maurepas Park.



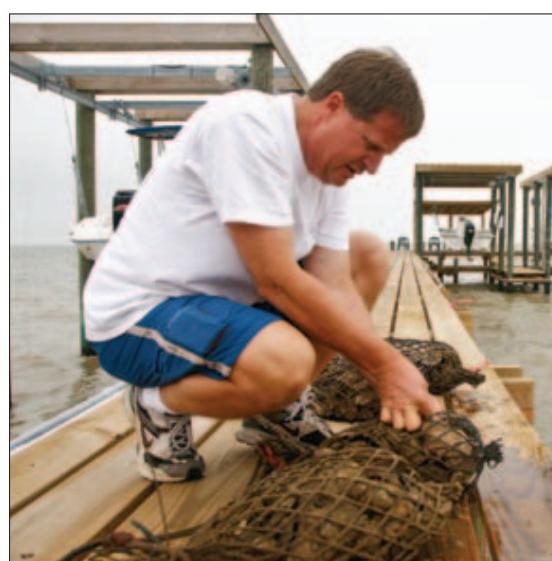
Nothing runs like a boy on a Deere

Ty Overcast pedals down Indiana Street on a miniature John Deere tractor in the fifth annual Sugarbeet Festival Parade of Power in Chinook, Mont.



Big birds

"Pheasants on the Prairie," a 40-foot-tall metal sculpture honoring the game bird near Regent, N.D., is one of seven large roadside sculptures on the Enchanted Highway built by artist Gary Greff. State wildlife officials said roadside surveys and brood observations indicate pheasant numbers are down 40 percent to 60 percent across North Dakota due to a harsh winter, loss of habitat to farming and a wet spring.



Different sort of garden

San Leon, Texas, resident Greg Tate is part of project

called "oyster gardening" in which he hangs mesh bags full of oyster shells off his fishing pier in San Leon.



Years of good reading

Longtime employee Sherry Johnson tracks down a title in the tiny office area at the back of Klindts Booksellers in The Dalles, Ore. The store is celebrating its 140th year of continuous operation.



Raising awareness

Kay Smallwood of Decatur, Ala., goes pink for cancer awareness with the help of Cindy Cole, owner of Cole Perfection Salon in Lawrence County.

Ex-astronaut's attorneys get to depose accuser

FL ORLANDO — Attorneys for a former astronaut will get another chance to question a romantic rival she allegedly drove 1,000 miles to confront.

Lisa Nowak is accused of attacking Colleen Shipman in a Florida airport parking lot two years ago. Shipman had begun dating Nowak's love interest, former space shuttle pilot Bill Oefelein.

An Orlando judge ruled Nowak's attorneys could depose Shipman for a second time to determine if she was actually touched by pepper spray during the confrontation.

Nowak's attorneys have a report from emergency technicians that raises questions about whether Shipman was sprayed.

That issue is important because Nowak's attorneys want one of her criminal charges thrown out if Shipman wasn't harmed by the pepper spray. Nowak wasn't in court for the hearing.

Mayor Daley gives no sign of leaving office

IL CHICAGO — In office for 20 years and on track to surpass his legendary father, Richard J. Daley, as the city's longest-serving mayor, Richard M. Daley said he still has passion for the job despite sinking approval ratings and his clear disappointment over Chicago's failure to land the 2016 Olympics.

"I don't know why you already put me in the grave," Daley, 67, joked recently when asked whether he'd seek a seventh term in 2011.

Daley hasn't declared his candidacy — he still has two years left in his current term — but many expect him to run, barring a major shift in the political landscape.

Murder charges dropped against truck driver

CA LOS ANGELES — Murder charges were dismissed against a commercial truck driver whose runaway big rig killed a man and his 12-year-old daughter in April, according to the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

Pasadena Superior Court Judge Lisa Lench dismissed the two counts of murder on which a county grand jury had indicted Marcos Barbosa Costa, 44, on June 11, said Jane Robison, a spokeswoman in the district attorney's office.

Robison said prosecutors had received information from an off-duty firefighter who was traveling behind Costa before the accident that he had warned the truck driver that the road was steep, he was traveling too fast and the truck's brakes were smoking.

Prosecutors believe that Costa had received notice that could have helped him avoid crashing, Robison said.

"He is very mindful that two people lost their lives and many were injured, and he is deeply pained by that," Steve Meister, Costa's attorney, said.

Roof tiles prove to be gold mine for thieves

TX DALLAS — Crooks nationwide are stealing millions of dollars worth of roofing shingles from lumberyards and building supply companies.

Previously, thieves would steal shingles from construction sites. Now they're going as far as to steal several semi-truck loads at a time. In Texas alone, at least \$4 million worth was stolen this year.

Investigators believe some thieves are part of an organized operation stockpiling the materials in anticipation of roof-ripping storms that would heighten the demand for their stolen wares.

The thefts force companies to spend thousands of dollars on security cameras, lighting and closed-circuit television equipment.

Deer tackles boy, 7, playing football

OH WINTERSVILLE — A 7-year-old Ohio boy playing a game of backyard football was tackled by a deer.

Brandon Hiles said he encountered the buck when the ball rolled into woods while he was playing with friends in Wintersville. The boy said the buck ran at him and flipped him with its antlers, leaving bruises and a gash.

His 9-year-old friend Wyatt Pugh beat the deer with a stick to make it go away.

Wintersville Police Officer Art Fowler Jr. said there were actually two bucks in the area gearing up for a fight, and Brandon was attacked when he inadvertently got between them.

First-grader's 45-day punishment lifted

DE BEAR — A Delaware first-grader who was facing 45 days in an alternative school as punishment for taking his favorite camping utensil to school can return to class after the school board made a hasty change granting him a reprieve.

The seven-member Christina School Board voted unanimously to reduce the punishment for kindergartners and first-graders who take weapons to school or commit violent offenses to a suspension ranging from three to five days.

Zachary Christie, 6, took the utensil — a combination folding knife, fork and spoon — to school to eat lunch last month.

"I want to get him back as soon as possible. I want to put this behind him as soon as possible," said Debbie Christie, Zachary's mother. "But I also want him to know that he has a voice, and when things are not right, he can stand up and speak out against them."

Prisoner cleared of slaying and robbery

KY LOUISVILLE — Prosecutors are saying a Kentucky man who served about nine years in prison for a shooting death and robbery is innocent.

Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorney David Stengel said that Edwin A. Chandler was innocent of the 1993 slaying of a convenience store clerk. Another man has been indicted in the killing.

Chandler's attorney, Marguerite Thomas, said a fingerprint on a beer bottle at the scene, along with two witnesses who came forward, cleared Chandler. Chandler was paroled in 2002.

Stengel offered his apologies, and said he hoped to help him receive restitution from the state.

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ADDRESSES

U.S. MAIL: Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: 23-17 Roppongi, 7-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo
106-0032, Japan

FAX: DSN 229-3122; (03) 3408-8936

E-MAIL:

Readers Forum: letters@stripes.osd.mil
Advertising: advertising@stripes.osd.mil
Marketing: marketing@stripes.osd.mil

CIRCULATION: circulation@stripes.osd.mil

CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1301.

Phone: DSN 312-763-0900 or civ (202) 761-0900.

Fax: (+1) (202) 761-0890

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Terry Leonard,

529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1301.

Phone: DSN 312-763-0535 or civ (+1) (202) 761-0535.

E-mail: leonard.terry@stripes.osd.mil

HOW TO CALL US

GENERAL MANAGER: John D. Panasiewicz,
tel DSN 229-3121; civ (+1) (3) 6385-3121
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e-mail ormauer@stripes.osd.mil

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NEWS BUREAUS

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Tokyo Editors: Thomas P. Skeen, Chris Carlson, Unit 45002, APO AP 96337-
5002; tel DSN 229-3357/3158; civ (03) 6385-3357/3158; fax DSN 229-3271;
civ (+1) (03) 3408-8936; e-mail skeent@stripes.osd.mil;

Tokyo Reporters: Terri Weaver, Hana Kusumoto and Tim Wrightman, tel DSN
229-3105, 229-3152 and 229-3166; civ (+1) (3) 6385-3105/3152/3166;
fax DSN 229-3271; e-mail weavert@stripes.osd.mil;

Kusumoto@stripes.osd.mil; wrightman@stripes.osd.mil

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WASHINGTON D.C.

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tel DSN (312) 222-1926; tel civ (+1) (703) 692-1926;

e-mail jeffrey.schogol@stripes.osd.mil; Leo Shane, tel DSN (312) 763-1183;

tel civ (+1) (202) 761-1183; e-mail shane@stripes.osd.mil; Kevin Baron,

tel DSN (312) 222-1875; civ (+1) (703) 692-1875;

e-mail baron@stripes.osd.mil; and Megan McCloskey,

e-mail mccloskey@stripes.osd.mil; 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,

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• STARS AND STRIPES •

BY ROBERT A. BOOK

The debate over health care reform has sparked all sorts of controversy over costs, regulations and choices. But one "feature" seems to have escaped notice: the built-in lack of accountability of our elected leaders for what health care will be like after the plan is implemented.

Proponents claim we need reform now to solve an immediate health care "crisis." "If we don't act, 14,000 Americans will continue to lose their health insurance every single day," President Barack Obama claimed on July 22.

Yet the bills he urges us to support will not actually provide any health care until 2013 — by which time, if the president's claim is correct, an additional 17 million Americans will have lost their insurance.

Why the delay? The best way the people have to hold their elected leaders accountable for results is by threatening to withhold their votes. But this bill seems expressly designed to eliminate that source of accountability. By the time Americans experience the effects of this health care bill (except for the tax increases), not only will Obama have run for re-election, but so will two-thirds of the senators — and every House member will have been up for reelection twice. Their votes on health care reform will be old news. If it goes very badly, it will be too late to vote those responsible out of office.

Furthermore, the House bill leaves all the knotty details and controversial issues to the newly created "Health Choices commissioner." That's the person whose job it will be to make a lot of our health care choices for us. The Senate Finance Committee (Baucus) proposal gives that authority to the secretary of Health and Human Services. Issues such as whether to:

- Permit people with Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to retain the high-deductible health plans required by the HSA law.

- Allow low-cost catastrophic plans.

- Permit insurance companies to cover treatment of otherwise terminally ill

patients.

- Require (or prohibit) coverage of abortion.

- Cover new cancer drugs or controversial procedures like (as the Center for American Progress has called for) "transgender" operations.

These and other issues will be left to an appointed official. Elected leaders will never have to face the voters and defend these crucial decisions that affect the life and health of every American, since the decisions will be made by an unelected bureaucrat.

Any representative or senator confronted by an angry constituent could respond, in effect, "I didn't say grandma couldn't have a pacemaker. I didn't deny you that expensive cancer drug. It was the independent, nonpartisan Health Choices commissioner. Congress — let alone any individual member — can't micromanage every decision the commissioner makes."

By pushing the tough decisions onto a bureaucrat — so they don't have to go on the record by voting — they effectively enact a system that allows them to dodge accountability.

The same official would also have the authority — even the duty — to audit the private plans that compete with the public option (or "co-op"), both employer-sponsored plans and plans sold by insurance companies. The official could audit plans randomly or "in response to complaints" — and, according to the House bill, demand "reimbursement" for the cost of the audits. In effect, a competitor or disgruntled former employee could run any employer or insurance company out of business by filing repeated complaints to force the targeted company to pay the cost of repeated audits to verify their manifest innocence.

And if the commissioner determines that any violations have occurred? Then according to the House bill, he or she is authorized to impose civil money penalties, suspend further enrollment in the plan, withhold premium payments made through the federal "exchange" and "work

with State insurance regulators to terminate plans" (page 45).

These penalties are entirely up to the commissioner. No particular evidentiary standard is required, and no appeals process is specified or mentioned, let alone any decision by a judge or jury. The commissioner, who will administer the "public option" or "co-op" plan, is totally unaccountable to anyone for penalties imposed on competing private health plans. And does anyone expect him or her to impose penalties on the "public option" or "co-op"? Is this the promised "level playing field"? The one designed to "keep insurance companies honest"?

The real question is, with such broad and unaccountable authority, who will keep the Health Choices commissioner and the secretary of Health and Human Services honest? And more important, with none of this taking effect until after the next two elections, who will keep the politicians honest?

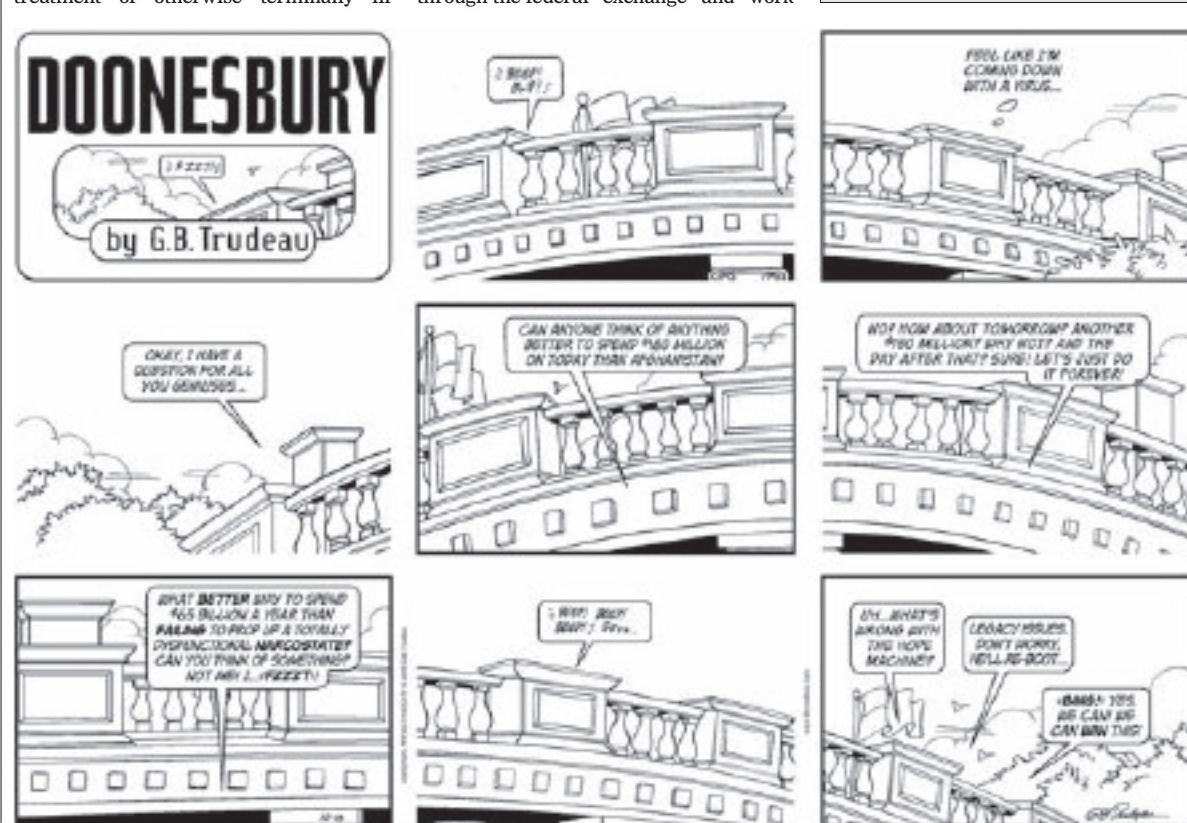
Robert A. Book is senior research fellow in health economics at The Heritage Foundation in Washington.

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OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Real help for American Indians *The Hays (Kan.) Daily News*

Congress is making a habit of begging forgiveness for this country's past behavior. Or at least acknowledging our predecessors did not always make the best decisions ...

The Senate recently approved such a resolution as part of a defense spending bill. The official statement, which was introduced by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., indicates remorse for years of ill-conceived policies and acts of violence toward American Indians ...

Apologizing for misdeeds that took place centuries ago strikes us as rather short on substantive meaning. The broken promises and treaties, massacres, thefts and forced relocations are all in the past. Present-day conditions on purposefully isolated reservations include extreme rates of poverty, crime, illiteracy, infant mortality and substance abuse ...

Replacing yesteryear's beads and trinkets with today's casinos and bingo halls should not be enough to rectify the wrongs of our forefathers. Neither should saying we're sorry.

American Indians need reparations, not apologies ...

And they don't need it in the form of cash payments. They need it in specific programs, laws and mindsets that eliminate the possibility of future acts of prejudice. They need it in the form of education that continues decreasing our fear, mistrust and hate of "others." They need it in legal vows not to seize any more territories for our own expansionist desires. They need it in the actual practice of equality for all.

Deeds, not words, are needed.

Prize shouldn't be for potential *The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch*

As the newest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, President Barack Obama has a task no other winner has faced: figuring out how to respond gracefully to an enormous honor given embarrassingly prematurely ...

The adulation with which much of the world has greeted the new president has fueled those critics who paint him as vain and insubstantial. Now, he has to explain why he, who has spoken eloquently of international cooperation and hope for the future but has had little time to achieve any concrete improvements, has won the world's most prestigious accolade ahead of others who have toiled for years, risking their lives to bring peace, justice and freedom to the world's bleakest corners ...

Millions of Americans share the Nobel committee's high hopes that Obama's collaborative approach to the world will repair the nation's international standing and lead to greater cooperation and improvement. But it's a work in progress — barely.

The Nobel committee has used the prize to show political support — or, as some see it, as moral pressure to constrain or direct the president's exercise of U.S. power — rather than to honor meaningful achievement. That can't help but undermine the credibility of the prize.

Not buying higher swipe fees *The Newark, N.J. Star-Ledger*

When it comes to credit card swipe fees, Americans are getting Third World



treatment.

U.S. consumers and businesses pay markedly higher charges than those in other developed nations when it comes to purchasing with plastic, according to a report by the Merchants Payment Coalition. ...

Every time a consumer uses credit, roughly 2 percent to 3 percent of the charge goes to banks or other payment networks, which set the fees at rates that often vary from country to country. American swipe fees are double those in the United Kingdom and New Zealand, and four times those in Australia, the merchants contend.

The beauty part for the credit card issuer is that it scores twice — once in a transaction fee it gets from the merchant and again with an interest charge to the customer. In 2008, those charges produced an estimated \$48 billion for American banks, an average of \$427 per household, the merchant coalition claims.

The swipe fees per transaction are small but have almost tripled in amount over the last decade ...

Lawmakers, including Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., have introduced legislation that would impose more restrictions on such fees.

That's a good start, but it's not enough. The bills are stuck in committee. They deserve a better treatment, as do the merchants and consumers burdened by these too-high charges.

Unemployment benefits help *The Eugene, Ore. Register-Guard*

Despite a growing consensus that the Great Recession has ended, unemployment is expected to continue rising well into next year.

That's why it's imperative that Congress move swiftly to approve another extension of unemployment benefits to help the millions of Americans who remain mired in economic misery.

Earlier this month, the Senate reached a tentative deal to extend unemployment benefits by 14 weeks in all states. ... Without a nationwide extension, 1.5 million Americans will have exhausted benefits by the end of the year, an unwelcome prospect for an economy just starting to recover from free fall ...

Republican critics of extended unemployment insurance say it can be a disincentive to looking for work — an argument that overlooks the wasteland that the job market remains in Oregon and most other states ...

Critics also claim extending benefits at a time the economy is recovering is counterproductive. But unemployment benefits are one of the most effective forms of short-

term stimulus. The average state jobless check is \$300 a month, and unemployed Americans plow that money back into the economy, paying rent and buying food and other necessities ...

The Great Recession technically may be over. But it's going to take a while for the "jobless recovery" to end and the real one to begin.

Until that happens, Congress should help unemployed Americans from plunging deeper into poverty.

Mission no blast for viewers *The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald*

NASA scientists say they had a valid reason for hurling two spacecraft into the moon. We wonder, though, if they just felt like blowing something up.

The experiment allegedly was designed to create a cloud of lunar dust that scientists could analyze for water content. To accomplish this, NASA officials planned to slam a 2.2-ton empty rocket stage into the moon at twice the speed of a bullet, equal to the power of 1.5 tons of TNT.

"Cool," said millions of Americans in unison, envisioning a giant explosion they could watch from their backyards.

The whiz kids at NASA managed to hit the moon with the two empty rockets (they had missed on eight previous attempts) and the resulting dust plumes pleased the scientists. But the audience of civilians were not impressed.

For those expecting a dazzling explosion, the experiment was a dud. The impact caused little more than a fuzzy white flash.

The mission was executed for "a scientific purpose, not to put on a fireworks display for the public," said one NASA official.

Well, hey, the public is paying for this show, and we want a big explosion, maybe some flames and a giant cloud of moon dust spewing from the lunar surface. Try a bigger rocket next time.

If not, we may start to question why we are spending millions of dollars to crash stuff on the surface of a moon astronauts already have visited in person numerous times. Some might even call it loony.

Did drivers get the message? *The (Lakeland, Fla.) Ledger*

With the stroke of the presidential pen last month, texting while driving became a forbidden activity for millions of federal workers.

The new decree sends an important message, not just to government employees but to an entire nation of drivers who spend too much time focused on everything but the road. We just hope they're not so busy multitasking that they fail to notice ...

Research has shown that in texting, drivers regularly take their eyes off the road for more than five seconds at a time. ...

Advocates say a total ban is needed — a stance that collides with motorists' growing tendency to use their wireless electronics while driving.

Whether by policy or by law, a ban on texting while driving poses enforcement challenges. Catching violators can be difficult, and texting has become so habitual that many drivers ignore restrictions.

Heavier ticketing and higher penalties might persuade more motorists to do the right thing.

Innovation also could help. Technology created the texting problem, and perhaps it can help solve it. There are products, for example, that can shut down a wireless device when it senses the car is in motion.

Still, drivers shouldn't need a machine to make them do what common sense demands: Put aside distractions and focus on the road.

Hollywood hypocrisy appalling *The Providence (R.I.) Journal*

Many are rallying to the defense of Roman Polanski, 76, director of such acclaimed films as "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist," which won him an Oscar. His arrest in Switzerland for fleeing the United States more than 30 years ago for the admitted rape of a 13-year-old has sparked protests from the intelligentsia in his adopted country, France, as well as Hollywood biggies Woody Allen, Martin Scorsese and Penelope Cruz, who seem to view him as a martyr to American Puritanism.

Whoopi Goldberg declared on TV's "The View," "I know it wasn't rape-rape. It was something else but I don't believe it was rape-rape."

A newly released transcript of the case, including questioning of the child victim, begs to differ. ... The transcript recounts that he allegedly plied the child with champagne and Quaaludes during a 1977 modeling shoot and raped her. The victim, now 45, who received a cash settlement from Polanski after she filed suit, says she forgives him and wishes the ordeal were over.

If he were a Catholic priest, you can bet Hollywood would not be demanding that Polanski be given a break. But because he is one of theirs, and because he had a horrifying childhood (he escaped from the Krakow ghetto in Poland during the Holocaust, and his mother died at Auschwitz), there is tendency among the entertainment illuminati to apply a different standard.

That would be wrong.

PERSPECTIVES

Into the great wide open

3 years later, reporter sees bleak outlook as Taliban makes gains in Afghanistan

BY JASON STRAZIUSO
The Associated Press

My closest Afghan friend held out his Taliban-era photo. A decade younger, he had a thick black beard that the oppressive regime forced men to grow.

My friend won't grow one again. He is already thinking about when to flee.

As generals, politicians and pundits in Washington debate the next best step for America's eight-year war in Afghanistan, the Taliban take new territory by the day, despite the record 64,000 U.S. troops here.

I arrived in Afghanistan in spring 2006, just as violence began to explode. I leave after three years as the chief correspondent for The Associated Press, and never have things seemed so ominous. As one of America's top military analysts, Anthony Cordesman, says: The U.S. "is now decisively losing."

No one thinks Kabul will fall while American forces are here. But even top U.S. commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal's latest assessment says that without reversing insurgent momentum in the next 12 months, defeating the insurgency will no longer be possible.

The quiet truth whispered by soldiers in the field and aid workers in Kabul is that the Afghan government is not likely to ever control southern Afghanistan's wildlands, the foreboding territory beyond the provincial capitals.

Villagers fear thieving police more than militants, and the August presidential election laid bare how pervasive corruption is here. The Taliban are playing to the general disgust with corruption by offering themselves as an alternative.

Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, a large man with a woolly black beard, once served as the Taliban's ambassador to Pakistan. He always greets me with a smile and seems

an unlikely representative for a hardline regime. He uses an iPhone — though his grandson recently broke it.

Zaeef is a conduit between the Afghan government and Mullah Omar's Taliban. Zaeef told me the militant leadership refers to its forces not as Taliban now, but as "mujahideen," a throwback to the Afghan "holy warriors" who ousted the Soviet Union at the end of the 1980s. The reason is that only 1 out of 10 militant fighters is a true "Taliban." The rest are ordinary Afghans, Zaeef said.

That bodes extremely ill for U.S. and NATO efforts.

"Every day you are killing people. Dozens of people. They have brothers, they have fathers, they have sons," Zaeef said. "The Taliban are my brothers, the Taliban are my sons. The Taliban are my cousins. They are not different from us. They did not come from the sky. They did not come from another Earth. They are all from Afghanistan."

McChrystal wants to shift the fight from killing militants to protecting the population. But the U.S. is now eight years into the fight, and there are signs — the spreading of the insurgency to the north, rising U.S. deaths — that it could be too late.

McChrystal knows the issue of civilian deaths caused by U.S. forces has turned many Afghans against the West. I witnessed my first such deaths in 2006, when I shadowed Lt. Will Felder and his platoon on a night-time helicopter invasion of Helmand province's Baghram valley.

Felder, a West Point graduate who left the Army in June after fulfilling his five-year commitment, battled in Helmand, Kandahar and Paktika provinces. He is frank about his time here.

"The things that we were able to accomplish tactically obviously were useless. You can pretty much point to every area we gained, to any sort of tactical success, and in the intervening years those areas have been lost and gained tactically many times," Felder told me from Atlanta, where he is a first-year law student.

"The only thing I can take away from it being successful is none of my soldiers got killed," he said.

It was on Felder's mission in Baghram that I saw a B-1 bomber destroy a mud house that militants had overrun, killing an apparently innocent elderly couple inside.

"We moved into an area, secured it, at the loss of American lives and certainly Afghan lives, spending a great deal of money and making promises to civilians in the area," he said. "And then we left."

The U.S. was also slow to identify the Taliban comeback for what it was. A top U.S. military official in Kabul told me that for too many years the rising violence here was mistakenly seen as a rise in crime, the drug trade, and corruption. Instead, he said, it was the beginning of an insurgency against the government. ...

David Guttenfelder/AP

Associated Press correspondent Jason Straziuso, left, takes cover behind a wall during a patrol with a platoon of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in Helmand province's Nawa district in July.



U.S. soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, cajole an Afghan donkey to carry supplies to their mountaintop post in southern Afghanistan in June 2006.

RODRIGO Abd/AP

Now, the harsh social rules that the Taliban imposed under their reign in the 1990s have already returned — or never left — in many of Afghanistan's hinterlands, like rural Helmand. ...

As Washington debates whether to send 10,000, 20,000 or 40,000 more forces, it's worth remembering that a former top commander here, U.S. Gen. Dan McNeill, said in an interview with NPR last summer that "well over 400,000" troops are needed to tame the country. He then called it "an absurd figure," because Afghanistan will never see that many troops. U.S. and NATO forces now number 100,000. The Afghan army has 90,000.

salient question to the fore: Do American families want their sons and daughters to die to defend it? ...

My memories of Afghanistan will last forever: The kids chasing kites. Cringing every time a U.S. convoy passed, because of the threat of a bomb attack. Hearing bullets whiz over my head while in the field with troops. Seeing a rare woman driver. And seeing a little Afghan girl burned within an inch of her life by white phosphorus rescued by U.S. military doctors.

A best-case scenario for the country is that the U.S. and NATO train enough Afghan soldiers to protect the provincial capitals, and the U.S. maintains a small



Afghan boys run after a kite during an Afghan New Year event in Kabul in March.

After eight years, fewer Americans than ever support the war. More troops would mean more forces driving over increasingly lethal roadside bombs.

There is little domestic support for the decades of work Afghanistan requires. That's why, Zaeef told me, Taliban leaders, militant commanders and ordinary Afghans are already laying the groundwork to prevent another civil war when the U.S. and NATO draw down. ...

The Aug. 20 election was so widely rigged that it will take months of investigations to declare a winner. Worse yet, the fraud has shown the world precisely how crooked the Afghan government is, bringing the most

counterterrorism force to watch over al-Qaida and Pakistan. The wild hinterlands will be left for the Taliban.

But Zaeef believes the Taliban will rule again one day, though they may not be able to take Kabul by force.

How long will America stay? As the Taliban like to say: "The Americans have the watches, but the Taliban has the time."

That is why my Afghan friend has already decided he will sell his home and leave Afghanistan if the Taliban infiltrate Kabul.

My friend survived one Taliban regime. He is now laying plans so he won't have to do it again.

The Aug. 20 election ... has shown the world precisely how crooked the Afghan government is, bringing the most salient question to the fore: Do American families want their sons and daughters to die to defend it?



AFN Television ScheduleUpdated sports listings are available on AFN's Web site at www.myafn.net

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009

	AFN/prime Atlantic	AFN/family	AFN/movie	AFN/news	AFN/prime Pacific	PENTAGON	AFN/spectrum	AFN/sports	AFN/xtra
15:00	Maya & Miguel	Animal Miracles	Movie "Frenzy" (1972, Suspense) Jon Finch, A man is wrongly suspected of committing a rash of murders.	The Rachel Maddow Show	Deadliest Catch A major storm system hits.	Fit For Duty Battleground	Eureka "Noche de Sueños"	SportsCenter	NFL Total Access
15:30	Danny Phantom	Hercules: The Legendary Journeys		Around the Services	Law & Order "Quit Claim"	Ft. Hood on Track Week-Pentagon	Stargate Atlantis "The Return" (Part 2 of 2)	SportsCenter	MTV Hits Playlist
16:00	Naruto	The Fairly OddParents	Movie "28 Days" (2000) Sandra Bullock, A problem drinker unwillingly undergoes rehabilitation.	Nightly Business Report	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition	Recon	King of the Hill	SportsCenter	Top 20 Countdown
16:30	Instant Star	Bindi the Jungle Girl		Nightline	Recon Revisited	That '70s Show			
17:00	Ent. Studios	Adventure Camp	Movie "King Kong" (2005, Adventure) Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody. A beauty tames a savage beast.	The O'Reilly Factor	World News-Gibson ESPNNEWS	Army Newswatch Week-Pentagon	The King of the Queens Everybody-Raymond	SportsCenter	Top 20 Countdown
17:30	Criss Angel Mindfreak			Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Selfish"	The Grill Sergeants	Gary Unmarried	SportsCenter	ECW With Todd Grisham & Matt Striker.
18:00	Ax Men "Ax Men Cometh"			Today	CSI: NY "My Name Is Mac Taylor"	Fit For Duty Balad and Beyond	The Big Bang Theory	SportsCenter	WWE SmackDown!
18:30					America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	All Hands TV Pacific Report	The Unit The team tries to rescue Jonas' old friend.	SportsCenter	
19:00	Access Hollywood			MSNBC Live	Headline News	Army Newswatch	Saturday Night Live	Sports	SportsNation
19:30					Futurama (Part 1 of 4)	Today's Air Force			Attack of the Show!
20:00	Deadliest Catch	A major storm system hits.		Bulls and Bears	'Til Death	Recon			
20:30				Cavuto on Business	Back to You	Week-Pentagon	Austin City Limits		

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009

00:00	America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	The Simpsons "Bart Carny"	(10:25) MovieInvincible (2006)	Forbes on FOX	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Snitch"	FNG Useful benefits. Fit For Duty	(11:30) Austin City Limits	(10:00) Sports	Top 20 Countdown
00:30		The Simpsons	(25) Movie "Air Force One" (1997, Suspense)	Cashin' In	Bones "The Girl in the Gator"	Around the Services	Denise Richards		Sports
1:00	Sports	Movie "Ratatouille" (2007, Comedy) Voices of Patton Oswalt, Ian Holm, Lou Romano.	Harrison Ford, Gary Oldman. Terrorists hijack the president's plane.	Newsroom	Around the Services	Trading Spouses: Meet Your New Mommy (Part 2 of 2)			
1:30			(35) Movie "Enemy of the State" (1998, Action)	Your Money	House "Sleeping Dogs Lie"	Around the Services	Boston Legal "Selling Sickness"		
2:00		Movie "Bolt" (2008) Voices of John Travolta, Miley Cyrus. Animated. A delusional TV dog winds up in New York.	Will Smith, Gene Hackman, Jon Voight. Former spy aids man framed in political cover-up.	This Week in the Pentagon	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Selfish"	Judging Amy "The Last Word"			
2:30			(4:55) Movie "King Kong" (2005, Adventure) Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody. A beauty tames a savage beast.	Wall Street Journal Report	CSI: NY "My Name Is Mac Taylor"	Around the Services			
3:00				Glenn Beck	Battleground	Judging Amy "The Last Word"			
3:30				Newsroom	America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back	Austin City Limits "Bloc Party, Ghostland Observatory"			
4:00				McLaughlin Group	This Week in the Pentagon	Namaste Yoga			
4:30				Our World With	The Benning Report	Total Body Sculpt With Gilad			
5:00	Sports	Barney & Friends		The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer	Downrange News from Iraq and Afghanistan.	Big Daddy's House Quiche.			
5:30		Oobi		FOX Report	Headline News	Throwdown With Bobby Flay			
6:00		Sesame Street			House Call-Dr. Sanjay Gupta	Time of Grace			
6:30		Swamp Critters			The Grill Sergeants				
7:00		VeggieTales			Fit For Duty	Kerry Shook Ministries			
7:30					This Week in the Pentagon	On Solid Rock			
8:00	Sports	Postman Pat			Washington Week in Review	In Touch-Dr. Charles Stanley	History's Mysteries Second millennium.		
8:30		Danger Rangers			Army Newswatch	USARJ This Week			
9:00		The Magic School Bus			Today's Air Force	T.D. Jakes	FNG Useful benefits.		
9:30		The Electric Company			The Chris Matthews Show	Love Worth Finding	Futureweapons Weapons		
10:00		Codename: Kids Next Door			Newsroom	Crossing the Goal	find their targets.		
10:30		Sabrina's Secret Life			Latin Music USA	Recon Revisited	Andrew Young Presents: How We Got Over		
11:00	Sports	Growing Pains			Entertainers	Fit For Duty			
11:30		The Cosby Show				This Week in the Pentagon			
12:00		Full House "Baby Love"				Washington Week in Review			
12:30		The Brady Bunch				In Touch-Dr. Charles Stanley			
13:00		McLaughlin Group				Army Newswatch			
13:30		ESPNNEWS	Movie "Dennis the Menace": Dennis the Movie Star" (1988)			USARJ This Week			
14:00		Washington Week in Review	SpongeBob SquarePants			T.D. Jakes			
14:30		House Call-Dr. Sanjay Gupta	(35) Dragons: Metal Ages			Today's Air Force			
15:00		Entertainers	(35) Dragons: Metal Ages			The Chris Matthews Show			
15:30			A rebel helps royalty fulfill a dangerous destiny.			Crossing the Goal			
16:00		In Touch-Dr. Charles Stanley	Be the Creature Lions in the desert plains of Botswana.			Recon Revisited			
16:30		T.D. Jakes				The American Veteran			
17:00		Love Worth Finding	SpongeBob SquarePants			Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles			
17:30		Crossing the Goal	The Fairly OddParents						
18:00		Latin Music USA	America's Funniest Home Videos						
18:30									
19:00		MotorWeek	Movie "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" (2005) Steve Carell, Paul Rudd. Three co-workers unite to help their buddy get a sex life.						
19:30		So You Think You Can Dance							
20:00		At the Movies							
20:30		Digging for the Truth	The Secret Life of the American Teenager						
21:00		King Tut							
21:30		Carrier "All Hands"	Lincoln Heights An earthquake strikes Lincoln Heights.						
22:00									
22:30		Man vs. Wild "Bear Eats"	Touched by an Angel "The Compass"						
23:00		Nature's kitchen.							
23:30		Ice Road Truckers "Highway Maggots"	7th Heaven "Regrets"						

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009

00:00	Survivor: Samoa	So You Think You Can Dance	(11:05) Movie "Glengarry Glen Ross" (1992) Al Pacino, Meryl Streep, Kevin Bacon. Thieves hold a former river guide and her family hostage.	This Week With George Stephanopoulos	Comics Unleashed	Around the Services	Dancing With the Stars	(11:00) Sports	(10:00) Sports
00:30				Meet the Press	Two and a Half Men	Fit For Duty	Dancing With the Stars		
1:00	Sports	The Secret Life of the American Teenager	Movie "Play Misty for Me" (1971) Clint Eastwood, Jessica Walter. A psychotic listener develops a fatal attraction for a DJ.		NCIS "Leap of Faith"	The Benning Report			
1:30					The Grill Sergeants				
2:00					VA News	24 "Day 6: 11:00PM - 12:00 Midnight"			
2:30					Cold Case "Cargo"				
3:00					This Week in the Pentagon				
3:30					Prison Break Not everyone makes it out of Sona.				
4:00					Recon Revisited				
4:30									
5:00	Sports	Teletubbies	(2:55) Movie "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" (2005) Steve Carell, three co-workers unite to help their buddy get a sex life.	Amanpour.	20/20	Balad and Beyond	NUMB3RS "Longshot"		
5:30		Rolie Polie Olie	(10) Movie "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" (2003) Cameron Diaz. Private detectives try to retrieve cryptic information.	Your Money	In Plain Sight "One Night Stan"	Battleground			
					Today's Air Force	Friends			
						Dancing With the Stars			
						Around the Services			

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YOUR MONEY



The party is over

Credit Card Act keeps lenders, students away from each other

BY PAMELA YIP
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — When I was a young college student, my banker dad helped me get a student credit card and told me it was time that I started building my credit.

That was the extent to which a bank "marketed" its credit cards to me.

The situation is much different for today's college students. For years, banks have set up booths on college campuses, hawked T-shirts and given away food to students if they would fill out a credit card application.

"Issuers have aggressively marketed cards to college students because they know that many parents will pay off the bill if the student runs up debt," said Bill Hardekopf, chief executive of LowCards.com. "In addition, brand loyalty is determined early in life, so many young cardholders keep their first card for many years."

But some students who got a credit card didn't know how to manage the credit and got themselves deep into debt. A recent study by Sallie Mae, the nation's largest student loan lender, found the average credit card balance for college students has grown to \$3,173.

But starting in February, it will be harder for students to get credit cards.

That's because the Credit Card Act passed this spring will prohibit credit card issuers from lending to anyone under the age of 21 unless he or she has a co-signer or has proof of their ability to make payments.

In addition, unsolicited card offers will be prohibited to everyone under 21, and credit card companies

can't entice students into signing up for a credit card with any tangible item anywhere on or near a college campus or at a college-sponsored event.

Texas law requires the state's colleges to incorporate a credit education class into their new student orientation programs and limits the locations and giveaways solicitors could use while on campus.

The University of Texas System also prohibits credit card issuers from soliciting students on campus.

Because they now will have to co-sign on a child's account, parents have a much stronger incentive to teach their young adults about using credit responsibly.

The message from parents needs to be that, "it's not just your credit, but it's also mine," said Todd Mark, vice president of education at Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Greater Dallas.

"Are you living within your means or are you living beyond my means in providing for you as my child?"

Parents need to show their child the consequences of paying late and not paying in full, he said. They should talk to their kids about grace periods and minimum payments.

"What's the cost of carrying a balance?" Mark asked.

The new credit card law requires card issuers to show how long it would take to pay off a card if you made just minimum payments. That will be a shock to some consumers.

Also, educate your kids about the high interest rates associated with cash advances and the dangers of using a credit card as an ATM, running up a balance and paying late.

"It's explaining all the 'gotchas,'" Mark said.

One credit card expert advises parents not to co-sign on a child's credit card account unless they trust that the child won't abuse the privilege.

"My general advice is, don't do it because your own personal credit is at stake," said Curtis Arnold, founder of CardRatings.com, a credit card information Web site.

Instead, parents can help their kids build credit by adding them as an authorized user on their card account, he said.

"As an authorized user, they can make charges to your account," Hardekopf said. "If you have good credit and they use the card responsibly, this will help build their credit score. However, if the parent or student has late payments or a high balance, it will pull down all credit scores."

The difference between an authorized user on a card account as opposed to a co-signer is that the primary cardholder is responsible for the bill. In a co-signed account, both parties are liable for the debt.

The financial education component for students is critical.

"They will learn that it's personal responsibility, and if you don't have income and you don't have a co-signer, you're not going to have credit," Mark said.

The numbers are in

- 84 percent of undergraduates this year have at least one credit card, up from 76 percent in 2004.
- On average, students have 4.6 credit cards, and half of college students had four or more cards.
- The average balance has grown to \$3,173, higher than any of the previous studies.
- Median debt has grown from 2004's \$946 to \$1,645.

SOURCE: "How Undergraduate Students Use Credit Cards: Sallie Mae's National Study of Usage Rates and Trends, 2009"

Summers: Banks must accept government regulation

BY TALI ARBEL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A top White House official called on financial institutions to accept new rules in order to help the economic system avoid future "devastating consequences for workers, consumers and taxpayers."

"Financial institutions that have benefited from government support can, should, and must use this moment to think about what they can do for their country — by accepting the necessary

regulation to protect the American people," White House chief economic adviser Lawrence Summers said Friday at a conference sponsored by The Economist magazine.

Banks and other financial institutions must accept the Obama administration's push for the proposed Consumer Financial Protection Agency that would oversee mortgages, credit cards and overdraft practices. Summers said it was "bit rich" for institutions that received billions in taxpayer money to complain

that such an agency would inhibit financial innovation — such as those that developed algorithms to maximize the gains from overdraft fees on customers' bounced checks.

Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo and other banks recently said they would no longer automatically enroll customers for the costly overdraft protection.

The House Financial Services Committee is overseeing the creation of the consumer protection agency and is expected to ap-

prove it next week.

On Friday, Summers commended the same House committee for moving to regulate derivatives a day earlier.

"A return to the status quo is unacceptable," Summers said. Banks must increase capital cushions and accept regulation and not be able to choose their own regulator, "playing one against the other," he added.

"Wall Street was no small part of the cause of the crisis and Wall Street needs to be part of the solution," he said.



Lawrence Summers

YOUR MONEY

How to dig yourself out of student loan default

Dear Liz: I'm in default on my student loans.

I don't know how many there are, I don't know who owns them, and I don't know how to start paying them off. I've had a debt-collection agency threaten to cut my throat and to hurt me in other physical ways if I didn't pay.

I've talked to the Department of Education, which doesn't seem to know who owns the loans because the secondary lenders have since turned all the debt over to collection agencies.

I'd like to begin repaying my loans, but I have no idea who to pay and I certainly don't want to pay the company that threatened me with violence.

This is killing my credit. What to do?

Answer: At the very least, you should complain to the Federal Trade Commission about this rogue collector. Any kind of harassment, including physical threats, is forbidden under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. You can find the FTC's guide for consumers at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/>

credit/cre18.shtml.

You can use the resources at <http://www.finaid.org/loans/lostlender.phtml> to try to track down your lenders. The FinAid website recommends two services to find loans, both based on the National Student Loan Data System, said Mark Kantrowitz, the site's founder.

Another possible source of help, Kantrowitz said, is the financial aid office at your college.

If you have any federal loans, you can dig them out of default by making nine out of 10 consecutive on-time voluntary payments, Kantrowitz said. Then you'll be able to consolidate them into the Direct Loan program at loanconsolidation.ed.gov. This will also remove the default from your credit history.

After you consolidate those loans, Kantrowitz suggests switching them to an income-based repayment if you can't afford to pay the full amount due under standard repayment. For more tips, see <http://www.finaid.org/loans/troublerepayingdebt.php>.

If you run into a wall, either finding your loans or working out repayment, contact the Federal Student Aid Ombudsman at www.ombudsman.ed.gov or (877) 557-2575.

If you have any private student loans, contact the lenders direct-

ly about working out a repayment plan, Kantrowitz said. Repayment options for private loans are more limited than those for federal loans.

Dear Liz: Your recent advice about investing an inheritance prudently is all good. However, I think most people waste unexpected money, spending it in dribs and drabs with not much to show for it. So, to your advice, I would add this:

Take a minor portion of the inheritance and spend it on some indulgence you would never have done otherwise. About 15 years ago, I used about 20 percent of a sizable inheritance to take my family, including kids, spouses and grandparents, on a three-week African safari. The result? We all have wonderful memories of a trip in which family members bonded closely with one another, and of once-in-a-lifetime sights and experiences.

The rest I invested, spent on college tuition and used for retirement. I can't account for it all, but I have no regrets about that Africa vacation.

Answer: Your advice is terrific. It's important to enjoy our windfalls and even more important to invest in experiences and memories that last. Your family is lucky to have you.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of the book "Your Credit Score: Your Money and What's at Stake." Questions for possible inclusion in her column may be sent to 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or via the "Contact Liz" form at www.asklizweston.com. Distributed by No More Red Inc.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Oct. 19)	87.00
South Korean won (Oct. 19)	1,128.00
Euro costs (Oct. 19)	\$1.5288
Dollar buys (Oct. 19)	€0.6541
British pound (Oct. 19)	\$.6541

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$.3770
British pound	\$.6346
Canada (Dollar)	1.0403
China (Yuan)	6.8278
Denmark (Krone)	5.0050
Egypt (Pound)	5.4770
Euro	\$.14882/0.6720
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7501
Hungary (Forint)	179.76
Israel (Shekel)	3.7073
Japan (Yen)	91.10
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2861
Norway (Krone)	5.6161
Philippines (Peso)	.4641
Poland (Zloty)	2.83
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3931
South Korea (Won)	1,165.80
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0193
Thailand (Baht)	33.43
Turkey (New Lira)	1,4609

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.50
Federal funds market rate	0.00-0.25
3-month bill	0.05
30-year bond	4.31

Sources: Bank of America, The Associated Press

Money Talk



Liz Pulliam Weston



AP

Goldman Sachs' headquarters is seen in New York. Goldman and others in the financial industry have spent over \$200 million lobbying members of Congress this year. More money is expected to be on the way.

Banks' lobbying push may stall overhaul of financial regulations

By RACHEL BECK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Get over it, America.

Wall Street bankers make too much money. The latest example: Goldman Sachs says it has set aside \$16.7 billion so far this year for compensation — or about \$530,000 per employee. Not bad for a company that a year ago received \$10 billion in federal money as well as \$12.9 billion from the government's bailout of American International Group Inc.

Maddening? Sure. But forcing Goldman or any other Wall Street firm to pay employees less won't help a single unemployed American find a job. It won't help a single homeowner who can't afford his mortgage. It won't help a single credit card user whose fees keep getting jacked up.

If you want something to really make you angry, though, consider this number: \$224 million. It's a lot less than \$16.7 billion but it could pack far more punch. That's the amount the financial industry spent in the first half of this year to lobby Congress to water down regulations aimed at preventing another financial meltdown. And more money is expected to be on the way.

The Obama administration and many members of Congress have told the public repeatedly over the last year that a regulatory overhaul was needed to protect us from another financial disaster, and their constituents back home are counting on them.

But the lobbyists' influence can already be seen.

Some potential powers have been stripped from the proposed Consumer Financial Protection Agency, which would be a federal watchdog to oversee areas such as mortgages and credit cards.

One requirement that was dropped would have forced banks to make standardized and straightforward "plain vanilla" mortgages available to customers along with other products.

The House Financial Services Committee is overseeing the creation of the consumer agency. It also has made certain exemptions in a bill focused on tougher oversight of derivatives.

Derivatives are contracts between two or more parties, the value of which is determined by fluctuations in underlying assets like stocks, bonds, commodities and interest rates.

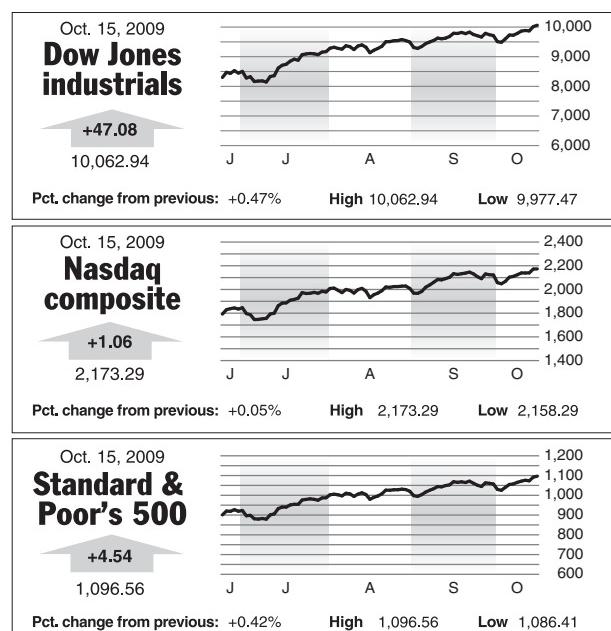
The House bill would impose restrictions on derivatives, forcing companies for the first time to conduct what had been private transactions on regulated exchanges. That's a positive.

But the bill also grants regulatory exemptions to companies that use derivatives for commercial use, which weakens the transparency of those transactions. Big industrial associations, including the Business Roundtable and U.S. Chamber of Commerce, had lobbied for those kinds of exemptions.

Lobbyists for financial industry have defended their actions, saying it is within their constitutional right to petition government leaders. That's certainly true.

It's also crucial for lawmakers not to falter when it comes to reforming a financial system that broke last fall.

A DAY ON WALL STREET



SOURCE: SunGard

AP

\$224 MILLION

The amount the financial industry spent in the first half of this year to lobby Congress on regulations, according to the AP

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Announcements

040

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Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES
www.stripes.com

Autos for Sale 141

Negishi, Japan - Clean, Non Smoking 1995 Nissan Joy. Blue Sedan Wagon with luggage rack. Seats 7, 5 cylinders, automatic trans, cold A/C, runs great. Excellent gas mileage. 500 Y-plate equals cheap road tax. Base inspection and JCI good until 2011. Asking \$10,000. Will deliver to area bases. Call 0903515 3575.

Yokota, Japan - 1991 Nissan Laurel Grey full size sedan with Kenwood stereo system. Replaces 2 tires, windshield wipers. Upholstery have some wear and tear but car still runs in great condition. It's only needed a few minor repairs. JCI good until 2010 asking \$400 OBO please call 214-261-6421 or email prodigies18@yahoo.com



Autos for Sale 141

Atsugi - 1991 GMC SYCLONE. All Wheel Drive Turbo Charged Truck, very rare, 310HP. Only 2900 ever made, very clean, 63,000 miles, power steering, rims and tires, newer disc brake conversion, many upgrades. Ready to go back to the USA. Asking \$9500, call Tony at 808-664-3211/808-347-4164. Will sell for \$8000-9000. Thankyou.

Yokota, Japan - 1998 Honda Civic "Red", hatchback, fully loaded, very reliable, power window, A/C, CD 81K mileage, JCI until September 2010. Asking \$1500 OBO Please call 323-338-7534

Yokota, Japan - 1998 Nissan Largo 1.6 QG16DE 4WD, 1998.02.28 2001 49-140km Dent at rear passengers side see pictures. Excellent a/c well maintained no leaks new brake pads AM/FM/Cassette Players clean interior no smoke odor. JCI until Feb 2011 asking \$850 BO Please call 267-6149

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Yokota, Japan - 1998 Nissan Largo 1.6 QG16DE 4WD, 19

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GREAT COMPENSATION
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Motorcycles 164

Atsugi - For Sale 1993 Harley Davidson Dyna Wide Glide Bike has 48273 miles and about 2000 miles on big bore kit, has Milwaukee engine, drag pipe, custom main frame has been chopped and raked out, and many more additions. Asking \$6500.00 obo contact Ivan #08058695453.

Atsugi - For Sale 2008 Harley Davidson Dyna Street Bob bike is all stock also comes with screaming magnum pipes, only has 1000 miles on bike runs great and strong asking \$13,000.00 obo contact Ivan #08058695453 or April #08058695462.

Baby Items 200

Atsugi - Selling Grecy Cherry Blossom Travel System and Swing, both were purchased in May of 2008 and were purchased new. We have been the only owners and both have received little use. We live in Atsugi and if you interested you will need to come pick them both up. Asking \$200 for both OBO. 090-1268-7244

Yokota, Japan - Fisher Price Ocean Wonders Aquarium Swing In great condition. Music, soft lights and tranquil aquatic sounds also help soothe baby. There's an aquarium water globe with changing lights and swimming characters, and a mobile unit for plush aquatic friends to keep baby company. Choose from six speeds, eight songs and three ocean sounds. Fisher Price Baby gear Speciality Swing age range birth to 2 years. Retalls for \$119.00 Asking \$40. Please call 813-200-9352 or email topkarogers@hotmail.com

Bicycles 220

Yokohama/Negishi - Mongoose Exile bicycle, 27 speed, 26" tires, yellow in color. Bought in June this year. Ridden to work to ride on weekend area rides. Have owners manual, blue. Sella seat post, three key cable lock, light bar, and extra wide seat installed. Have original seat as well. Asking \$100 OBO. Leaving Japan on 30th - call 269-6291 or 080-4073-8157. Email: james.r.guest@us.army.mil or jimguest@jimguest@yahoo.com

Cellular Phones 280

Yokohama/Negishi - two (2) Softbank model 812SH cell phones, metallic blue color - one has scratches. One in use and the other is inactive. Only need to change SIM card to make them work. Complete with box, manual, and charger. Paid \$155 each - will sell both for \$100 OBO. Leaving Japan on 30th - call 269-6291 or 080-4073-8157. Email: james.r.guest@us.army.mil or jimguest@jimguest@yahoo.com

Jobs Offered 630

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GREAT COMPENSATION
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Jobs Offered 630

**U.S. Army Medical Department Activity, Japan
Camp Zama, Japan**
Physical Therapist, Intermittent (240 hours)

Provides physical therapy service in the areas of physical disabilities and neuromuscular dysfunctions in patients ranging from adolescence to the very elderly.

Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree or higher in Physical Therapy from an accredited school in the United States.
- Two years clinical physical therapy experience with training in manual therapy skills is preferred.
- Must have a permanent, full, and unrestricted license to practice physical therapy in a State, District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or a territory of the United States.

Other Requirements:

- This position requires a signed statement due to requirements of seasonal influenza vaccination as a condition of employment. Selection of a non-current employee will be withdrawn due to refusal of seasonal influenza vaccination. If refusal is due to medical and/or religious reasons, a statement from a credible source is required.

This is a contract position open to SOFA status applicants. Resumes may be sent to yoshiyusa.Aoki@us.army.mil.

All applicants shall register in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) which can be found at www.ccr.gov. Individuals not registered are not eligible for a Government contract.

Pets 820

Yokota, Japan - Saltwater Fish - free to a good home! We are leaving Japan in December and need to find a good home for our saltwater fish - 1 small clown fish, 2 small chromes, 1 yellow tail damsel and 2 hermit crabs. They have all lived happily together for 1.5 years, so we would like to keep them together if possible! Please contact 080-3421-0272

Pet Accessories 822

Yokota, Japan - Brand New Nike Magnifl Ck Vapour Trail Glove Tired of trying to catch those sketchy passes in the rain and just can't stand it? Want the perfect glove? Want the right route to be worn by? Well, I'm selling a pair of Nike football gloves, that will increase your chances of catching or receiving a pass, I wore them only once to practice and loved them, but due to me having to end my football season early, I was unable to sell them. I am selling them for \$17.00 or email sk8er11fe9179@yahoo.com

Pets 820

Yokota, Japan - garden (west facing) fence enclosed property for 2 story garden house. Professionally built July 2009. Paid \$2500+, great condition. PCS in November ready to sell today. Asking \$2000 obo still in the ground, you must come and get it. Call or e-mail me for address. 090-3427-0394

Pet Accessories 830

Yokota, Japan - Weber charcoal grill great grill in excellent condition, I changed to gas asking \$20. Please call (323)338-7553 or email mdfisherman@hotmail.com

Jobs Offered 630

Home Electronics 570

Negishi, Japan - 1 year old pure breed male yellow Labrador Retriever, free to a good home. He is gentle and kind, and has tons of energy, crate trained, house broken and fixed. Will provide pedigree papers (in Japanese) crate and metal training collar. Contact (323)338-7553 or email xzone12xx@yahoo.com

Home Electronics 570

Sagami Home English School is looking for Native English speakers to teach English in our English immersion weekend and evening classes.

Please contact Mr. Sato 090-1243-4802 or e-mail sheets@ucn.ne.jp

Home Electronics 570

Kohoku/Negishi - Coby 20 watts CD stereo system. Still in box - never used. Will accept reasonable offer. Leaving Japan on the 30th - call 269-6291 or 080-4073-8157. Email: james.r.guest@us.army.mil or jimguest@jimguest@yahoo.com

Lost 670

Yokota, Japan - Lost Blue Fender Grill from my car. A small Blue piece fell off my car, maybe you seen it and picked it up, come over I will enclose a picture to show what it looks like. It's from a Mazda RX7.

Please call me if you have seen it, or if you can help me get a new one. Please call Sheridan Turner 080-3588-0119

Musical Instruments 740

Yokota, Japan - CASIO CTK-481 Keyboard. This keyboard still works perfectly, great for any aspiring musician! Even a used one will cost you \$80 on Amazon, this is a real deal for just \$50. OBO! Link or email <http://tinyurl.com/ma2z0m>

Yokota, Japan - Casio CTK-481 Keyboard. This keyboard still works perfectly, great for any aspiring musician! Even a used one will cost you \$80 on Amazon, this is a real deal for just \$50. OBO! Link or email <http://tinyurl.com/ma2z0m>

Household Items 560

Yokohama/Negishi - Shark Re-tractor clean air hand vac with retractable cord. Still in box - never used. Will accept reasonable offer. Leaving Japan on the 30th - call 269-6291 or 080-4073-8157. Email: james.r.guest@us.army.mil or jimguest@jimguest@yahoo.com

Household Items 560

Yokota, Japan - Large Japanese Kanji Frame. They are ichigochi only once in the life) this is good for display on white wall. Size: 4' x 1.5'. Please call at yojapatajapan@gmail.com or call 090-9825-3805 (Soft Bank). User can text me with the number). Asking \$35 OBO. Please call 090-9825-3805 or e-mail friskolan73@hotmail.com

Household Items 560

Yokota, Japan - XLR male/female cable (10 meters) like new, no wear. For connecting musical instruments, amps, etc. Asking \$30. Please call 090-4389-3536 or e-mail mrvak@yahoo.com

Household Items 560

Yokota, Japan - Fender DG-20CE Acoustic/Electric Guitar with Locking Tuners. Great for travel. Includes gig bag and shell case.

Includes: 5 Picks, Seiko ST-727 Guitar/Bass Electronic Tuner, and a Chord Clamp. Asking \$300 OBO. Please call 0425-999-8508 or e-mail scott_jason_d@softbank.jp

Household Items 560

Yokota, Japan - Pearl Drum set, rarely used. Comes with 2 symbols,

high hats, bass pedal, and 4 mute pads for snare, toms and floor tom. Asking \$50. Please call Judah 0425-69-6386

Household Items 560

Yokota, Japan - Vans Tara Dakides Snowboard Boots

Women's size 9.5 - 6.5 UK - 26 CM. Like New Condition. Asking \$60.

Please call 1-425-999-8508 or email mrvak@yahoo.com


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News About You



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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Pro soccer

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.—College football: Pittsburgh at Rutgers (dld).
AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—MLB playoffs: AL championship series, L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, Game 1 (dld).

Sunday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College football: Iowa at Wisconsin.

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.—College football: Oklahoma vs. Texas at Dallas.

AFN-Xtra, 1 a.m.—College football: Ohio State at Purdue.

AFN-Atlantic, 4:30 a.m.—College football: Arkansas at Florida.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—College football: Southern California at Notre Dame.

AFN-Xtra, 4:30 a.m.—College football: Texas Tech at Nebraska.

AFN-Xtra, 8:25 a.m.—Auto racing: NAS-CAR Bank of America 500.

AFN-Sports, 8:30 a.m.—MLB playoffs: AL championship series, L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, Game 2.

AFN-Atlantic, 8:45 a.m.—College football: South Carolina at Alabama.

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.—College football: Virginia Tech at Georgia Tech (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 4 p.m.—MLS: Chicago at New England (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 6 p.m.—College football: Missouri at Oklahoma State (dld).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—MLB playoffs: AL Championship Series, L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, Game 2 (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 9 p.m.—College football: Minnesota at Penn State (dld).

Monday

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—NFL: Baltimore at Minnesota.

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—NFL: N.Y. Giants at New Orleans.

AFN-Xtra, 2 a.m.—NFL: Detroit at Green Bay.

AFN-Atlantic, 5 a.m.—NFL: Tennessee at New England.

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.—NFL: Arizona at Seattle.

AFN-Xtra, 5 a.m.—NFL: Buffalo at N.Y. Jets.

AFN-Xtra, 8 a.m.—NBA preseasn: Phoenix vs. Philadelphia at Monterrey, Mexico.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—MLB playoffs: NL championship series, L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, Game 3.

AFN-Atlantic, 9:15 a.m.—NFL: Chicago at Atlanta.

AFN-Xtra, 10 a.m.—MLS: Los Angeles at Houston (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—Tennis: Shanghai Masters, men's singles championship (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 4 p.m.—NFL: Houston at Cincinnati (dld).

AFN-Sports, 8:30 p.m.—MLB playoffs: NL championship series, L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia, Game 3 (dld).

AFN-Xtra, 11 p.m.—NFL: N.Y. Giants at New Orleans (dld).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard; (dld) indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Tennis

Shanghai Masters

Friday

At Qizhong Tennis Center

Shanghai, China

Purse: \$5.25 million (Masters 1000)

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles

Quarterfinals

Nikolay Davydenko (6), Russia, def. Radek Stepanek (13), Czech Republic, 6-1, 4-6, 6-1.

Feliciano Lopez, Spain, def. Robin Soderling (9), Sweden, 7-6 (4)-6-3.

Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, 3-6, 6-3, retired.

Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Gilles Simon (8), France, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

Generali Ladies

Friday

At Intersport Arena Linz

Linz, Austria

Purse: \$2.20 million (int'l.)

Surface: Hard-Indoor

Singles

Quarterfinals

Petra Kvitova, Czech Republic, def. Carla Suarez Navarro (4), Spain, 6-4, 7-5.

Agnieszka Radwanska (2), Poland, def. Lucie Safarova (7), Czech Republic, 6-3, 7-6 (9).

Flavia Pennetta (1), Italy, def. Ioana Raluca Olaru, Romania, 7-5, 6-2.

Yanina Wickmayer (3), Belgium, def. Sara Errani (8), Italy, 7-5, 6-3.

HP Open

Friday

At Utsbo Tennis Center

Osaka, Japan

Purse: \$220,000 (int'l.)

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles

Quarterfinals

Francesca Schiavone (4), Italy, def. Melinda Czink (7), Hungary, walkover.

Sania Mirza, India, def. Marion Bartoli (2), France, 6-4, 2-0, retired.

Caroline Wozniacki (1), Denmark, def. Aleksandra Wozniacki (6), Canada, 6-2, 6-7 (1), 6-2.

Samantha Stosur (3), Australia, def. Jill Craybas, United States, 6-1, 6-3.

College football

Saturday

Eastern Conference						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
13	5	10	49	41	29	
10	7	11	34	38	34	
10	8	8	38	32	37	
8	10	9	36	36	41	
8	8	12	36	40	42	
8	12	8	32	29	37	
4	19	6	18	22	47	

Western Conference

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
12	8	8	44	36	27
11	6	11	44	34	31
10	7	11	41	33	26
13	9	5	44	30	25
8	10	8	40	41	33
11	7	3	37	40	34
10	12	6	36	47	44
7	13	8	29	34	46

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

x—clinched playoff berth

y—clinched conference

Wednesday's games

Real Salt Lake 2, New York 0

Saturday's games

Real Salt Lake at Toronto FC

Chicago at New England

Columbus at C. United

Seattle FC at Kansas City

Colorado at FC Dallas

San Jose at Chivas USA

Sunday's games

Los Angeles at Houston

Thursday, October 22

Chivas USA at Chicago

Saturday, October 24

Toronto FC at New York

D.C. United at Kansas City

Colorado at Real Salt Lake

FC Dallas at Seattle FC

San Jose at Los Angeles

Sunday, October 25

Houston at Chivas USA

New England at Columbus

Golf

Las Vegas Open

PGA Tour

Thursday

At PGA Summerlin

Las Vegas

Purse: \$4.2 million

Yardage: 7,223; Par 71 (35-36)

First Round

Tom Pernice, Jr.	31-31-62 -9
Troy Matteson	31-31-62 -9
Spencer Levin	31-31-62 -9
Bob Heintz	32-31-63 -8
Martin Laird	33-30-63 -8
Scott Piercy	31-33-64 -7
Jim Furyk	30-34-64 -7
Tim Petrovic	32-33-65 -6
Jeff Klauk	32-33-65 -6
Kirk Triplett	32-33-65 -6
Briny Baird	35-30-65 -6
Robert Garrigus	32-33-65 -6
Frederik Jacobson	33-33-66 -5
George McNeill	34-33-66 -5
Aaron Baddeley	32-34-66 -5
Brett Quigley	34-33-67 -4
Aaron Watkins	33-33-67 -4
Richie Sternier	35-32-67 -4
Parker McLachlin	32-35-67 -4
Jay V. Singh	34-33-67 -4
Rickie Fowler	34-33-67 -4
Bo Van Pelt	36-32-68 -3
Paul Goydos	35-33-68 -3
Billy Mayfair	34-34-68 -3
Andres Romero	36-32-68 -3
Ben Crane	34-34-68 -3
Jeff Quinney	32-35-68 -3
Tommy Armour III	34-34-68 -3
Bill Lunde	32-36-68 -3
Nathan Green	33-35-68 -3
Steve Lowery	36-32-68 -3
Johnson Wagner	36-32-68 -3
Roland Thatchar	33-35-68 -3
Steve Marino	34-34-68 -3
Matt Weibring	34-34-68 -3

Second Round

Francesco Molinari, Italy	63-66-129
Charl Schwartzel, South Africa	65-65-130
Padraig Harrington, Ireland	69-62-131
Retief Goosen, South Africa	68-64-132
Peter Malnati, Spain	68-64-132
Alastair Forsyth, Scotland	65-68-133
Alvaro Quiros, Spain	68-68-133
Lee Westwood, England	66-67-133
Oliver Fisher, England	67-67-134
Simon Khan, England	66-68-134
Robert-Jan Derkken, Netherlands	68-67-135
Stephen Dodd, Wales	71-64-135
Johan Edors, Sweden	69-66-135
James Kingston, South Africa	71-64-135
Shane Lowry, Ireland	70-65-135
Justin Rose, England	65-70-135
Anthony Wall, England	68-67-135
Marc Warren, Scotland	68-67-135

College football

Thursday's scores

SOUTH

Cincinnati 34, South Florida 17

Morgan St. 14, Howard 7

Thursday's AP Top 25 summary

No. 8 Cincinnati 34, No. 21 South Florida 17

Cincinnati 3 14 7 10-34

South Florida 7 3 7 0-17

First Quarter

Cin—FG Rogers 37, 9:57.

USF—Hester 28 pass from Daniels (Schwartz kick), 6:14.

Second Quarter

Cin—Binns 3 pass from T.Pike (Rogers kick), 14:38.

Cin—Binns 8 pass from T.Pike (Rogers kick), 4:31.

Third Quarter

Cin—Collaros 75 run (Rogers kick), 8:34.

USF—Daniels 1 run (Schwartz kick), :33.

Fourth Quarter

Cin—Collaros 3 run (Rogers kick), 13:14.

Cin—FG Rogers 29, 6:29.

A—63,976.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Cincinnati

Colaros, 10-132, Peard 12-55, Ramsey 8-13, Gilyard 1-5, Team 1-(minus 1), T.Pike 5-(minus 15).

Passing—Cincinnati

T.Pike 12-25-0, Collaros 4-10-7, Gilyard 2-10-0, Daniels 15-32-2, Busch 1-0-0.

Receiving—Cincinnati

Binns 5-75, Peard 5-30, Ramsey 2-8, Gilyard 1-4, Woods 2-25, Storch 2-8, Morris 1-1, Busbee 1-14.

Rushing—South Florida

Storch 1-27, Plancher 7-37, Lamar 6-34, Foster 7-23.

Passing—South Florida

Storch 1-2, Plancher 1-0, Daniels 1-0, Gilyard 1-0.

Receiving—South Florida

Storch 1-2, Plancher 1-0, Morris 1-1, Busbee 1-14.

Individual statistics

BASEBALL

TEXAS RANGERS

—Promoted Ron Hopkins special assistant to the general manager; A.J. Preller senior director, player personnel; Kip Fagg director, amateur scouting and Josh Boyd director, pro scouting.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

WASHINGTON NATIONALS

—Named Roy Clark vice president of player personnel, Johnny DiPulio director of Latin American operations and Doug Harris director of player development. Promoted Kris Kline to director of scouting.

FOOTBALL

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

NASHVILLE PREDATORS

—Recalled C. O'Reilly from Milwaukee (AHL). Re-signed F Mike Santorelli to Milwaukee.</p

Game Day

WEEK 6

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
N.Y. Jets	3	2	0	.600	101	88	2-0-0	1-2-0	3-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0
New England	3	2	0	.600	104	91	3-0-0	0-2-0	2-2-0	1-0-0	1-1-0
Miami	2	3	0	.400	112	106	2-1-0	0-2-0	2-2-0	0-1-0	2-0-0
Buffalo	1	4	0	.200	77	116	1-2-0	0-2-0	0-3-0	1-1-0	0-2-0
Indianapolis	5	0	0	1.000	137	71	2-0-0	3-0-0	3-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0
Jacksonville	2	3	0	.400	97	127	1-1-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	0-2-0	2-1-0
Houston	2	3	0	.400	115	120	1-2-0	1-1-0	2-2-0	0-1-0	1-1-0
Tennessee	0	5	0	.000	84	139	0-2-0	0-3-0	0-5-0	0-0-0	0-3-0
Cincinnati	4	1	0	.800	101	90	1-1-0	3-0-0	3-1-0	1-0-0	3-0-0
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	138	97	2-1-0	1-1-0	3-2-0	0-0-0	1-1-0
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	.600	113	98	2-0-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0
Cleveland	1	4	0	.200	55	121	0-2-0	1-2-0	1-3-0	0-1-0	0-2-0
Denver	5	0	0	1.000	99	43	3-0-0	2-0-0	4-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
San Diego	2	2	0	.500	101	102	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-2-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
Oakland	1	4	0	.200	49	130	0-2-0	1-2-0	1-3-0	0-1-0	1-2-0
Kansas City	0	5	0	.000	84	138	0-3-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-3-0	0-1-0

National Conference

	East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
N.Y. Giants	5	0	0	1.000	151	71	2-0-0	3-0-0	3-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0
Philadelphia	3	1	0	.750	127	86	2-1-0	1-0-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Dallas	3	2	0	.600	122	98	1-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0
Washington	2	3	0	.400	73	82	2-0-0	0-3-0	2-3-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
New Orleans	4	0	0	1.000	144	66	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	0-0-0
Atlanta	3	1	0	.750	102	63	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	1-0-0
Carolina	1	3	0	.250	57	104	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-3-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
Tampa Bay	0	5	0	.000	68	140	0-2-0	0-3-0	0-4-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	156	90	2-0-0	3-0-0	4-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0
Chicago	3	1	0	.750	105	78	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	1-1-0
Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	104	93	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0
Detroit	1	4	0	.200	103	162	1-2-0	0-2-0	1-3-0	0-1-0	0-2-0
San Francisco	3	2	0	.600	115	98	2-1-0	1-1-0	3-2-0	0-0-0	3-0-0
Arizona	2	2	0	.500	85	89	1-2-0	1-0-0	0-1-0	2-1-0	0-1-0
Seattle	2	3	0	.400	115	82	2-1-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
St. Louis	0	5	0	.000	34	146	0-2-0	0-3-0	0-5-0	0-0-0	0-2-0

GAMES ON AFN

(Times are Japan and Korea Standard)

Monday

Baltimore at Minnesota

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.

Ravens QB Joe Flacco is well on pace to pass his rookie totals of 2,971 yards and 14 touchdowns. His nine TD tosses are tied for fourth in the NFL. ... Ravens RB Willis McGahee and Vikings RB Adrian Peterson share the NFL lead with 7 TDs.

Tuesday

Chiago at Atlanta

AFN-Atlantic, 9:15 a.m.

The Falcons play host to the Bears for the second straight season. Atlanta beat Chicago 22-20 on a last-second 48-yard field goal by Jason Elam last year. ... The Falcons have allowed two sacks, tied for fewest in the NFL. The Bears' defense has 14 sacks, tied for fourth in league.

Wednesday

Denver at San Diego

AFN-Sports, 9:30 a.m.

These teams played two memorable games last year. Denver benefited from referee Ed Hochuli's blown call and won 39-38 at home in Week 2. In the season finale in San Diego, the Chargers routed the Broncos to complete a four-game winning streak that gave them the AFC West title.

— The Associated Press

NEXT WEEK

Sunday, Oct. 25

Minnesota at Pittsburgh
San Francisco at Houston
Indianapolis at St. Louis
San Diego at Kansas City
New England at Tampa Bay
Green Bay at Cleveland
Buffalo at Carolina
N.Y. Jets at Oakland
Atlanta at Dallas
Chicago at Cincinnati
New Orleans at Miami
Arizona at N.Y. Giants
Open: Denver, Seattle, Detroit, Jacksonville, Baltimore, Tennessee, Jacksonville, Monday, Oct. 26
Philadelphia at Washington

• STARS AND STRIPES •

MARQUEE MATCHUP

New York Giants (5-0) at New Orleans Saints (4-0)

2 a.m. Monday, Japan & Korea Standard, AFN-Sports

OPENING LINE: Saints by 3 1/2

RECORD VS. SPREAD: New York 4-1; New Orleans 4-0

SERIES RECORD: Giants lead 14-10

LAST MEETING: Saints beat Giants 30-7, Dec. 24, 2006

LAST WEEK: Giants beat Raiders 44-7; Saints beat Jets 24-10

GIANTS OFFENSE: OVERALL (2), RUSH (4), PASS (9)

GIANTS DEFENSE: OVERALL (1), RUSH (15) PASS (1)

SAINTS OFFENSE: OVERALL (3), RUSH (2), PASS (11)

SAINTS DEFENSE: OVERALL (6), RUSH (7), PASS (11)

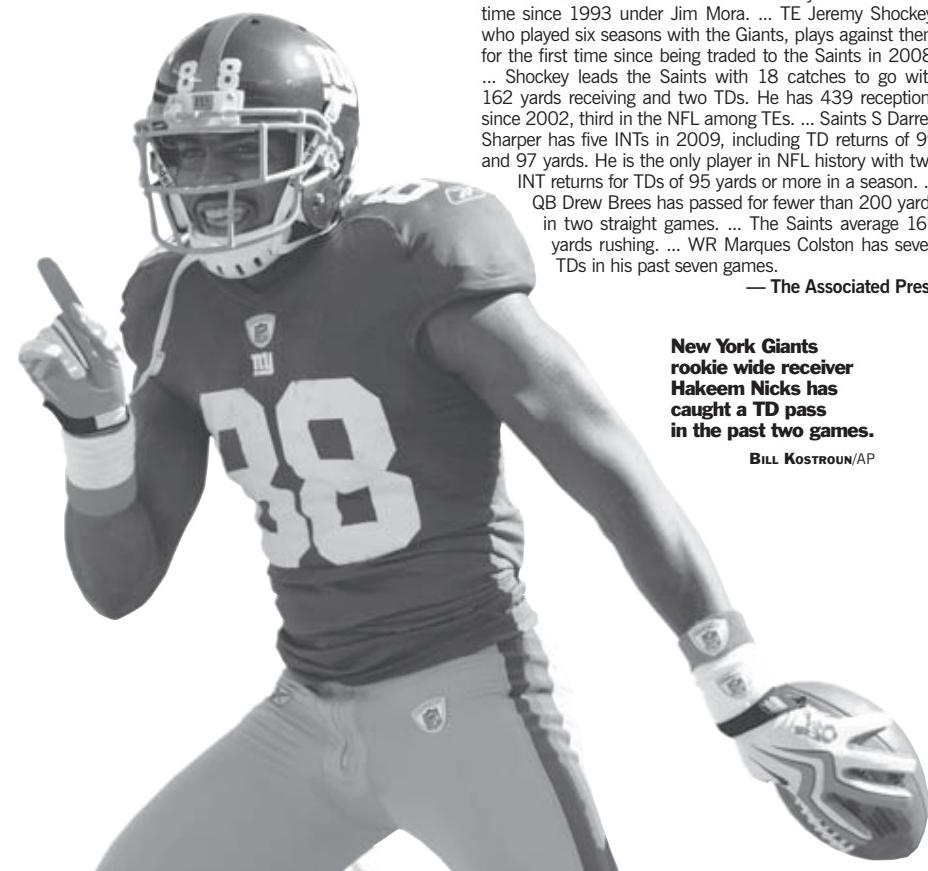
STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: The Giants are attempting

to win their first six games for the first time since 1990's Super Bowl-winning team. ... Eli Manning is making his first pro appearance in the Louisiana Superdome, where his father, Archie, starred with the Saints. ... Manning is 6-1 as a starter in games played indoors. ... The Giants are 8-1 when RB Brandon Jacobs has 100 or more yards rushing. ... Rookie WR Hakeem Nicks seeks his third straight game with a TD. ... The Giants have won 10 straight (including playoffs) when DE Justin Tuck has a sack. ... RB Ahmad Bradshaw rushed for 110 yards and two TDs in the Giants' victory over the Oakland Raiders. ... In the past four games, WR Steve Smith has 31 catches for 401 yards and four TDs. ... The Saints have an opportunity to open a season with five victories for the first time under coach Sean Payton and the first time since 1993 under Jim Mora. ... TE Jeremy Shockey, who played six seasons with the Giants, plays against them for the first time since being traded to the Saints in 2008. ... Shockey leads the Saints with 18 catches to go with 162 yards receiving and two TDs. He has 439 receptions since 2002, third in the NFL among TEs. ... Saints S Darren Sharper has five INTs in 2009, including TD returns of 99 and 97 yards. He is the only player in NFL history with two INT returns for TDs of 95 yards or more in a season. ... QB Drew Brees has passed for fewer than 200 yards in two straight games. ... The Saints average 166 yards rushing. ... WR Marques Colston has seven TDs in his past seven games.

— The Associated Press

New York Giants
rookie wide receiver
Hakeem Nicks has
caught a TD pass
in the past two games.

BILL KOSTROUN/AP



Giants face big test in the Big Easy

The New York Giants (5-0) face the New Orleans Saints (4-0) Sunday in a battle of two of the NFC's three remaining unbeaten teams.

MATCHUP

Texans at Bengals

AFN-Xtra, 5 a.m.

STORYLINE

Can the Bengals avoid the cliffhanger finish for once? Nope

Bengals 17-16

Lions at Packers

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Against Lions, it will be hard to tell if Packers shored up blocking woes

Packers 30-13

Rams at Jaguars

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

WInless Rams confront inconsistent Jaguars

Jaguars 27-10

Ravens at Vikings

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Ravens are one of the more mistake-prone teams in the league

Vikings 24-14

Giants at Saints

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Giants need to be better than in any game thus far ... should be

Giants 27-21

Browns at Steelers

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Even a banged-up Steelers squad should breeze past Browns

Steelers 23-7

Panthers at Bucs

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Bucs are worse than most every team

Panthers 17-3

Chiefs at Redskins

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Mediocre 'Skins conclude their journey through the dregs of the NFL

Redskins 13-10

Eagles at Raiders

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Until Raiders show they belong in the NFL, they can't be taken seriously

Eagles 30-7

Cardinals at Seahawks

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Seattle can tighten NFC West race. Arizona still unsteady, but ...

Cardinals 24-23

Titans at Patriots

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Patriots sure don't look as good as nearly everyone expected

Patriots 30-17

Bills at Jets

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Suddenly, the Jets are also a mistake-prone team; won't hurt here

Jets 23-10

Bears at Falcons

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Matchup of two top young QBs, but running game will decide this one

Falcons 20-16

Broncos at Chargers

AFN-Xtra, 9:15 a.m.

Broncos are everything Chargers were supposed to be in the West

Broncos 20-10

OPEN DATES: Cowboys, Colts, Dolphins, 49ers

AP

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Houston at Cincinnati
Kansas City at Washington
Carolina at Tampa Bay
St. Louis at Jacksonville
Philadelphia at Oakland
Open: Indianapolis, Miami, Dallas, San Francisco

NFL meetings

Owners table creating free agency window

BY BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Free agency rules will change if the NFL has no salary cap for the 2010 season, and team owners opted not to add to potential uncertainty by bringing an antitampering measure to the table.

The owners offered a proposal to create an offseason window when teams can negotiate with free agents even before the players actually become available. The idea is not dead and will be discussed at next March's winter meetings — weeks after free agency is scheduled to begin.

And with no new collective bargaining agreement with the players union in place, next season will be an uncapped year — albeit with further restrictions on player movement.

"We've been discussing this for two to three years and haven't vetted it enough to make sure we've got the right system," said Rich McKay, co-chairman of the competition committee and president of the Atlanta Falcons. "We'll continue to look at it and bring it up again."

Mckay said the owners prefer stricter enforcement of current tampering rules.

"The anti-tampering rules have served

Proposal to be discussed again in March

us well," he said. "We hold onto the idea of let's enforce these rules."

Currently, a free agent can negotiate with his current team until free agency begins. But, as McKay cryptically noted, there have been violations.

"People have always hung on to the idea of 'We have rules, let's enforce them.' But they're very hard to enforce," he said. "I don't necessarily put all the blame on the clubs. There's another group at work here, a group that is not necessarily under our control."

That group would be player agents, many of whom consider stretching the rules part of the free agent game.

Last March, the Tennessee Titans sent information to the league that the Washington Redskins might have contacted Albert Haynesworth and his agent, Chad Speck, before free agency began Feb. 27. No charges were brought, however.

Haynesworth signed a seven-year, \$100 million contract with Washington that included \$41 million in guaranteed money.

Recently, the NFL began investigating

whether the New York Jets tampered with San Francisco's first-round draft choice, Michael Crabtree, during his lengthy holdout. The wide receiver signed with the 49ers earlier this month.

"They are difficult to enforce because you want to be certain you have a violation before you take any action," commissioner Roger Goodell said.

"I think there could be a change in the future, but at the end of the day the clubs focused on ... we have rules in place and don't make any modification to it. There's no consensus on what modifications we should make and what the impact might be."

Goodell said another negotiating session with the NFL Players Association is scheduled for next week. The sides have met several times, but no major economic negotiations on a new collective bargaining agreement have occurred.

If 2010 winds up being an uncapped season, there could be some confusion for players.

"With the restrictions in place, the game will be really at the same level it has been

in the past several years," Goodell said. "Quality is what we focus on and I don't see it being impacted."

"But I think there will be changes that affect players. There won't be team (salary) minimums, (unrestricted) free agency will go from four years to six. There are lot of factors that will affect the dynamics."

The owners also met with George Martin, who has been hired by the NFL Alumni Association, a group that plans to be the lone voice for retired players. Those players have had their representation fragmented by many groups, and Goodell believes working with one organization will be a positive development.

"One thing I've heard coming out of meetings with retired players was that they want an independent organization that is focused entirely on retired players," Goodell said. "Now we can have an entity that is independent that can identify issues that are priorities for retired players."

"Retired players are an asset. They're wonderful ambassadors for the game, they mean so much to fans. To be able to cooperate with them to provide opportunities for them, this is a great development for us."

NFL briefs

Ravens' Lewis fined \$25K for hit on Ochocinco

The Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — The NFL fined Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis \$25,000 on Friday for two separate plays, including a helmet-to-helmet hit on Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chad Ochocinco.

The Ravens said Lewis will appeal the fine.

Both plays occurred in the fourth quarter of Baltimore's 17-14 loss on Sunday. The league deemed that Lewis "unnecessarily kicked the opponent" and later "unnecessarily struck a defenseless receiver."

During the latter play, Lewis hit Ochocinco after a pass from Carson Palmer sailed incomplete, and the 15-yard penalty for unnecessary roughness helped set up the winning touchdown with 22 seconds remaining.

Ochocinco lost his helmet during the collision, but immediately popped up from the turf. After the game, the boisterous receiver used his Twitter account to ask NFL commissioner Roger Goodell for leniency.

"Please don't fine Ray Lewis Mr. Roger Goodell, it was a clean hit, it's part of the game, save the fines for me," Ochocinco wrote.

Asked Wednesday if he expected to be fined, Lewis replied, "Probably."

But the standout middle linebacker said that's just how he plays the game.

"If I had to change anything, I would do it the same way I've done it," Lewis said. "I will never slow down my speed, the way I play this game. I've never played this game to hurt anybody."



NICK WASS/AP

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco's helmet pops free after being hit by Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis, right, on Sunday. The NFL fined Lewis for the helmet-to-helmet hit.

"But the bottom line is, when I turn to go, I'm like a missile. When I'm locked in, I'm locked in. Whatever's there is there. Worrying about fines and all that, I'll let that take care of itself. The NFL does a great job with that. You call them and discuss it with them."

On Friday, Lewis said, "I'm not talking about no fine."

Coach John Harbaugh said, "I'm disappointed. You hate to see that."

Asked about the play in which Lewis allegedly kicked a player, Harbaugh said, "It was an inadvertent trip that happened."

Harbaugh added: "Ray Lewis is a tough, a physical guy. Ray Lewis is also as great a sportsman as I've met. He plays good, clean football. I guarantee you the shot on Ochocinco was in the strike

zone. I want to stand behind Ray in that sense."

Jets' Cotchery, Smith doubtful, but not ruled out

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — New York Jets wide receivers Jerricho Cotchery and Brad Smith were listed as doubtful to play against Buffalo after each missed a third straight practice session Friday because of injuries.

Despite some published reports that Cotchery had already been ruled out, coach Rex Ryan denied that was the case.

Cotchery injured his left hamstring in practice last Thursday and sat out two days before playing Monday night at Miami. Smith injured a quadriceps in the loss to the Dolphins.

Right tackle Damien Woody (right foot) didn't practice, and

was listed as questionable. Defensive end Shaun Ellis (bruised knee) and cornerback Donald Strickland (right ankle) were limited, and were also questionable. Cornerback Lito Sheppard (right quad) was probable.

Raiders WR Schilens getting closer to playing

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Oakland wide receiver Chaz Schilens practiced without pain for a second straight day but is still likely a week away from returning to the Raiders lineup.

Schilens, who broke a bone in his left foot during a training camp scrimmage against the San Francisco 49ers on Sept. 18, did individual work Thursday and took part in some team drills while getting his most extensive work since the injury.

"It's a process getting back into it," Schilens said. "This is really the first week I've done any practice with the team. I've just been running routes and doing a lot of individual work, that's about it."

The Raiders are listing Schilens as questionable to play this week against Philadelphia. Oakland coach Tom Cable said the team will continue to start rookies Darrius Heyward-Bey and Louis Murphy and will activate veteran Javon Walker to add depth at receiver.

Before getting hurt in training camp, Schilens was beginning to emerge as one of quarterback Ja-Marcus Russell's favorite targets. He caught 15 passes for 226 yards and two TDs as a rookie and was making a run at being Oakland's No. 1 receiver before going down against San Francisco.

If Schilens is able to play Sunday, it would be a shot in the arm for an offense that has managed only one touchdown and 16 points over its past three games.

Mangini not interested in trading Cribbs

BEREA, Ohio — Cleveland Browns coach Eric Mangini said Friday he has no interest in trading special teams star Josh Cribbs. Mangini, however, didn't address Cribbs' desire for a new contract.

Cribbs, currently signed through 2012, has previously mentioned he would seek a trade if a new deal couldn't be reached. The trade deadline is Tuesday.

According to media reports, at least five teams have inquired about Cribbs' availability.

Ex-NFL great Francis accused of stealing

OMAHA, Neb. — An owner of Omaha's indoor football team has accused former team president and NFL great Russ Francis of theft.

A police report filed this month by Jeff Sprows alleged that Francis used a debit card 66 times without authorization and amassed charges of more than \$29,000.

Prosecutors did not immediately return a phone call Friday from The Associated Press and efforts to reach Francis were unsuccessful.

Francis played tight end in the NFL during the 1970s and 1980s with New England Patriots and San Francisco 49ers.

He was hired in May to run the Omaha Beef team. Sprows fired him in August.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: AP TOP 25

Cincinnati QB injured in win over USF

No. 8 Bearcats rally around backup Collaros to put away No. 21 Bulls

BY FRED GOODALL

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Cincinnati will have to find a way to keep its high-octane offense going without Tony Pike for at least one more game.

The No. 8 Bearcats lost their starting quarterback to a sprained left wrist during Thursday night's 34-17 victory over No. 21 South Florida, and the severity of the injury will be determined by a specialist.

Coach Brian Kelly said Pike, who broke his left forearm last season and played with a plate and six screws that are still in place, will miss Cincinnati's next game, at home Oct. 24 against Louisville.

"The plate that's in there has shifted," Kelly said. He was to undergo an examination on Friday, and Cincinnati was expecting a decision on Pike's status by Monday.

The Bearcats (6-0, 2-0 Big East) did not make Pike available to the media in the locker room, citing team policy regarding injured players.

Without the senior, who's thrown for 1,633 yards, 14 touchdowns and three interceptions, Cincinnati rallied around backup Zach Collaros.

The replacement scored on runs of 74 and 3 yards after Pike threw two TD passes to Armon



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Cincinnati quarterback Zach Collaros stretches the ball over the goal line against South Florida on Thursday.

Binns in the second quarter to help build a 17-10 halftime lead.

South Florida (5-1, 1-1) tried, but never truly adjusted to the Bearcats transforming themselves into a run-first team with Collaros in the game.

"We try to stay prepared for every circumstance," Kelly said. "Zach gets work on that during the week, and we had enough in there to be successful against a very, very good defense."

The Bulls led early on B.J. Daniels' 28-yard touchdown pass to Jessie Hester, and closed within 24-17 late in the third quarter



SIDELINE SELECTIONS

RANK/TEAMS (ranked teams in bold)

Arkansas at No. 1 **Florida**
No. 22 S.C. at No. 2 **Alabama**
No. 3 **Texas** vs. No. 20 **Oklahoma** at Dallas
No. 4 **Va. Tech** at No. 19 **Ga. Tech**
No. 6 **USC** at No. 25 **Notre Dame**
No. 7 **Ohio St.** at Purdue
No. 9 **Miami** at UCF
No. 11 **Iowa** at Wisconsin
Colorado St. at No. 12 **TCU**
Minnesota at No. 14 **Penn St.**
Texas Tech at No. 15 **Nebraska**
Missouri at No. 16 **Oklahoma St.**
No. 17 **Kansas** at Colorado
No. 18 **BYU** at San Diego St.
No. 23 **Houston** at Tulane
No. 24 **Utah** at UNLV

when safety Nate Allen intercepted an ill-advised pass by Collaros to set up a 1-yard TD run by Daniels.

But Collaros, one of two freshmen quarterbacks who bailed Cincinnati out after two starters — Dustin Grutza and Pike — were injured early last season, was not rattled by the mistake. He led a six-play, 70-yard drive that restored the 14-point lead.

"You never want to see your starting quarterback go down," Collaros said. "I just try to be as well-prepared as I possibly can."

Familiar territory for Big 12 South rivals

The third-ranked Texas Longhorns will face off with the 20th-ranked Oklahoma Sooners in this Big 12 matchup for the 104th installment of the Red River Rivalry.

STORYLINE	Ralph D. Russo • AP	PICK
Gators' pass defense No. 1 in the country	Florida 45-14	
Spurrier vs. Saban for first time since 2001	Alabama 27-7	
More defense on display at Cotton Bowl this season	Oklahoma 27-21	
Hokies have won four of past five meetings	Va. Tech 28-20	
Another USC romp will not go over well, Charlie	USC 30-21	
Buckeyes barely even need an offense	Ohio St. 27-7	
Hurricanes make a recruiting trip to Orlando	Miami 35-17	
Hawkeyes' 10-game winning streak in danger	Wisconsin 24-17	
Horned Frogs have won five straight vs. Rams	TCU 38-14	
Gophers won four of past six, including two in Happy Valley	Penn St. 31-21	
Huskers have allowed only one TD pass	Nebraska 28-17	
Cowboys' Zac Robinson is Big 12's top-rated passer	Okl. St. 37-24	
Tyler Hansen starts at QB for sinking Buffaloes	Colorado 34-28	
BYU won seven of past eight meetings by average of 26 points	BYU 40-14	
Cougars can focus on C-USA title	Houston 48-21	
Rebels have allowed 122 points past two games	Utah 48-24	

Kelly was confident the sophomore could get the job done.

"He's a gamer. He's a competitive kid," Kelly said. "He's athletic, and we did what we had to do with him in the game, and that was obviously run him, control the clock, play good defense and get out of here with a win."

It was another disappointing night for South Florida, which has struggled after climbing into the Top 25 the past three seasons.

The Bulls won their first six games in 2007 and were ranked No. 2 before three consecutive

losses dropped them out of contention for league and national titles. They were 5-0 last season before losing four of their next five, including the third of USF's four straight losses to Cincinnati.

Bulls coach Jim Leavitt said the team will regroup and prepare for next week's conference game at Pittsburgh.

"I'm going to look at the film, tell them what they did right and what they did wrong ... and we'll move on," Leavitt said. "I don't have any other magical formula I can use."

Easy: Saints-Giants game has additional subplots

EASY, FROM BACK PAGE

and pounding," Thomas said. "We've also got Reggie (Bush), who can do just about anything out there on the field, so it's going to be crazy."

The Saints' running game is the reason they've been able to remain unbeaten while Brees' production has fallen sharply in the past two games. In Buffalo, Brees' streak of 22 games with 200 or more yards passing was snapped, and Brees passed for under 200 yards again two weeks ago against the New York Jets.

Brees said defenses aren't shutting him down so much as the Saints are exploiting a newfound ability to control games by keeping the ball on the ground and using up clock.

"We went in wanting to take care of the

football and run the ball efficiently, which is always what we want to do, but maybe more so against those teams," Brees said. "We just knew that maybe managing the game was maybe more important than trying to be super aggressive. ... We're running the ball well, using up clock, so I think when you look at it, maybe the output wasn't what it was in the past, but the fact that you win by 20 points and 14 points, who cares?"

This could be another one of those weeks for the Saints. The Giants' defense, allowing the fewest yards in the NFL, also has been the league's best against the pass, but 15th against the run. Then again, the Giants haven't played many offensive juggernauts in recent victories over Oakland, Kansas City and Tampa Bay. New York hasn't had to deal with receivers like

Marques Colston or former Giants tight end Jeremy Shockey.

"It's not our fault how bad the offenses were that we played," Giants linebacker Antonio Pierce said. "Obviously ... it is one of our biggest challenges all year because the Saints have a great quarterback. They have a lot of speed at running back, obviously Shockey at tight end, the receivers. They are loaded, we know that."

New Orleans also is much improved on defense. The unit still gives up yards, but also leads the league in takeaways with 13, thanks in large part to safety Darren Sharper's five interceptions, two of which he has returned for touchdowns.

Incidentally, Sharper has intercepted four passes off Manning, returning two for touchdowns.

"Yeah, I am keeping him in the Pro Bowl

every year, it seems like," Manning said. "When the ball is thrown to him, he makes the catches and makes good plays. You have to know where he is on the field."

This game, it seems, has it all: unbeaten teams, star quarterbacks, good running games and good defenses. There are the added subplots of Manning playing in his hometown and Shockey playing for the first time against the team that drafted him in 2002.

Saints head coach Sean Payton called the Giants the best team, with the best quarterback, that New Orleans has faced. The Giants have made similar comments about the Saints.

"These are the games that are fun to play," Manning said.

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NHL scoreboard**Eastern Conference**

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	7	6	1	0	12	28	14
Pittsburgh	7	6	1	0	12	24	17
Philadelphia	5	3	1	1	7	19	15
New Jersey	5	3	2	0	6	14	15
N.Y. Islanders	4	0	1	3	3	9	13

Northeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	6	4	2	0	8	19	15
Buffalo	4	3	0	1	7	10	5
Boston	5	2	3	0	4	16	19
Montreal	6	2	4	0	4	14	21
Toronto	6	0	5	1	1	13	28

Southeast Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	7	3	2	2	8	26	22
Tampa Bay	6	2	2	2	6	16	23
Carolina	6	2	3	1	5	15	20
Atlanta	3	2	1	0	4	12	9
Florida	5	1	4	0	2	10	20

Western Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	7	5	1	1	11	26	19
Columbus	5	4	1	0	8	14	11
Detroit	6	3	3	0	6	19	21
St. Louis	5	2	2	1	5	14	15
Nashville	6	2	4	0	4	8	20

Northwest Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	7	5	1	1	11	24	15
Calgary	7	4	2	1	9	25	25
Edmonton	6	3	2	1	7	23	19
Vancouver	5	2	3	0	4	17	17
Minnesota	5	1	4	0	2	12	18

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	6	4	2	0	8	14	9
Los Angeles	7	4	3	0	8	23	24
Anaheim	6	3	2	1	7	16	16
San Jose	7	3	3	1	7	21	22
Dallas	5	2	0	3	7	20	14

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Wednesday's games

Pittsburgh 3, Carolina 2, SO
N.Y. Rangers 4, Los Angeles 2

Chicago 4, Edmonton 3

Dallas 6, Nashville 0

Anaheim 6, Minnesota 2

Thursday's games

Washington 4, San Jose 1

Colorado 3, Montreal 2

Detroit 5, Los Angeles 2

Ottawa 7, Tampa Bay 1

Chicago 3, Nashville 1

Phoenix 3, St. Louis 2, OT

Friday's games

Atlanta at New Jersey

N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo

Philadelphia at Florida

Boston at Dallas

Minnesota at Edmonton

Vancouver at Calgary

Saturday's games

Atlanta at Buffalo

Ottawa at Montreal

Colorado at Detroit

San Jose at N.Y. Islanders

Nashville at Washington

Los Angeles at Columbus

N.Y. Rangers at Toronto

Carolina at New Jersey

Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh

Dallas at Chicago

Boston at Phoenix

St. Louis at Anaheim

Minnesota at Vancouver

Sunday's games

No games scheduled

Thursday**Capitals 4, Sharks 1**

	1	0	-1
San Jose	1	0	-1
Washington	1	2	-1

First Period—1, Washington, Semin 6 (Backstrom, Green), 7:21 (pp). 2, San Jose, Ferriero 2 (Nichol, Huskins), 14:07.

Second Period—3, Washington, Ovechkin 6 (Knuble, Morrison), 2:55. 4, Washington, Ovechkin 7 (Knuble, Morrison), 3:23.

Third Period—5, Washington, Bradley 2 (Jurcina), 5:11. Penalties—Morrison, 2, San Jose, Ferriero 2 (Nichol, Huskins), 14:07.

Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 3; Washington 1 of 5.

Goals—San Jose, Nabokov 3-2-1 (36 shots-32 saves), Washington, Theodore (13-12), Varlamov 2-0-0 (0:00 second, 15-15).

A—18,277 (18,277). T—2:20.

Coyotes 3, Blues 2 (OT)

	0	2	0	-2
St. Louis	0	1	1	-3
Phoenix	0	1	1	-3

Second Period—1, St. Louis, Backes 1 (Stramann, Colaiacovo), 3:22. 2, Phoenix, Don 1 (Alton, Jovanovski), 9:24 (pp). 3, St. Louis, Kariya 3, 12:19.

Third Period—4, Phoenix, Upshall 2 (Lombardi, Mueller), 8:27.

Overtime—5, Phoenix, Jovanovski 2 (Fiddler, Michalek), 3:37.

Shots on Goal—St. Louis 6-14-3-1-24.

Phoenix 11-8-11-4-34.

Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 2; Phoenix 1 of 4.

Goals—St. Louis, Mason 1-2-1 (34 shots-31 saves), Phoenix, Bryzgalov 4-1-0 (24-22).

A—6,899 (17,125). T—2:22.

Coyotes 3, Blues 2 (OT): At Glendale, Ariz., Ed Jovanovski scored at 3:37 of overtime for Phoenix, knocking the flying puck past goalie Chris Mason with the shaft of his stick.

Phoenix's Scottie Upshall sent the game to overtime, capping a 2-on-1 break with a wrist shot just inside the far post with 11:33 left in regulation.

Shane Doan also scored. David Backes and Paul Kariya scored for St. Louis.

Blackhawks 3, Predators 1: At Nashville, Tenn., Dustin Byfuglien and Tomas Plekanec scored for Montreal.

The Canadiens have lost four straight since opening the season with a pair of overtime victories.

Coyotes 3, Blues 2 (OT): At Glendale, Ariz., Ed Jovanovski scored at 3:37 of overtime for Phoenix, knocking the flying puck past goalie Chris Mason with the shaft of his stick.

Phoenix's Scottie Upshall sent the game to overtime, capping a 2-on-1 break with a wrist shot just inside the far post with 11:33 left in regulation.

Shane Doan also scored. David Backes and Paul Kariya scored for St. Louis.

Blackhawks 3, Predators 1: At

Nashville, Tenn., Dustin Byfuglien and Tomas Plekanec scored in a 28-second span early in the second period for Chicago.

Cristobal Huet made 12 saves, allowing only Martin Erat's goal.

Duncan Keith also scored for Chicago, and Brent Seabrook added two assists.

Avalanche 3, Canadiens 2: Nicklas Lidstrom became the first European defenseman and eighth overall to reach 1,000 points, assisting on two goals for host Detroit.

The Swedish star has 229 goals and 771 assists in 1,336 career games.

Jonathan Ericsson and Henrik Zetterberg each had a goal and an

assist, Tomas Holmstrom, Kirk Maltby and Brian Rafalski also scored, and Chris Osgood made 24 saves.

Dustin Brown and Justin Williams scored for Los Angeles.

Senators 7, Lightning 1: Milan Michalek had his first three-goal game in the NHL, scoring twice short-handed and once on a power play for host Ottawa.

Jarkko Ruutu had a goal and two assists and Alex Kovalev, Alexandre Picard and Nick Foligno also scored for the Senators. Daniel Alfredsson had three assists.

Pascal Leclaire enjoyed a quiet night in goal, making just 16 saves.

Tampa Bay's Ryan Malone scored his sixth goal of the season.

Avalanche 3, Canadiens 2: Ryan O'Reilly scored his first NHL goal with 6:13 left to help Colorado spoil Montreal's 100th home opener.

O'Reilly, 18, chosen 33rd overall by Colorado in the June draft at the Bell Centre, got his own rebound and put a shot past Carey Price to give Colorado its third straight victory. Craig Anderson

made 29 saves, and Milan Hejduk and Kyle Cumiskey also scored for the Avalanche (4-1-1).

Roman Hamrlik and Tomas Plekanec scored for Montreal.

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Phoenix's Scottie Upshall sent the game to overtime, capping a 2-on-1 break with a wrist shot just inside the far post with 11:33 left in regulation.

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The Swedish star has 229 goals and 771 assists in 1,336 career games.

Jonathan Ericsson and Henrik Zetterberg each had a goal and an

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Dustin Brown and Justin Williams scored for Los Angeles.

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Jarkko Ruutu had a goal and two assists and Alex Kovalev, Alexandre Picard and Nick Foligno also scored for the Senators. Daniel Alfredsson had three assists.

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Tampa Bay's Ryan Malone scored his sixth goal of the season.

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O'Reilly, 18, chosen 33rd overall by Colorado in the June draft at the Bell Centre, got his own rebound and put a shot past Carey Price to give Colorado its third straight victory. Craig Anderson

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made 29 saves, and Milan Hejduk and Kyle Cumiskey also scored for the Avalanche (4-1-1).

Sports briefs

Judge refuses to toss Jayson Williams' case

The Associated Press

SOMERVILLE, N.J. — A New Jersey judge rejected attempts by attorneys for Jayson Williams to throw out the manslaughter case against the former NBA star.

Williams was convicted in 2004 of covering up the shooting of a hired driver, but he faces a retrial in January on a reckless manslaughter count.

State Superior Court Judge Edward Coleman ruled Friday that defense attorneys didn't prove that racial bias and prosecutorial misconduct tainted the trial.

Members of the Hunterdon County prosecutor's office testified this month at a hearing prompted by the disclosure two years ago that a county investigator used a racial slur to describe Williams, who is black.

The slur was not disclosed to the defense until more than three years after Williams' conviction.

Texas Tech lists Sheffield as No. 1 QB for Nebraska

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech Steven Sheffield was listed as the Red Raiders' No. 1 quarterback on the team's depth chart for Saturday's game at No. 15 Nebraska.

Texas Tech coach Mike Leach had made no official announcement as of Friday. On Monday, he said he would decide Saturday if Sheffield or Taylor Potts would start against the Cornhuskers.

The depth chart was posted with the team's game notes late Thursday.

Potts, who went out because of a concussion before halftime against New Mexico two weeks ago and missed the Kansas State game, is listed No. 2.

Since stepping in for Potts, Sheffield has thrown for 728 yards and 10 touchdowns. He threw one interception each against the Lobos and the Wildcats.

Astros interview Melvin for job of manager

HOUSTON — Former Arizona Diamondbacks manager Bob Melvin interviewed for the same position with the Houston Astros.

Melvin was the fifth of 10 candidates the Astros will interview. Former Washington Nationals manager Manny Acta was scheduled to meet with the team Friday afternoon. The Astros fired Cecil Cooper on Sept. 21 and promoted third-base coach Dave Clark to interim manager. Clark was

the first candidate interviewed.

Melvin was fired by Arizona in May after the Diamondbacks won 12-17. He took over the Diamondbacks in 2004, following a 51-111 season, and guided them to a division title in 2007 to earn NL manager of the year honor. Former Milwaukee Brewers skipper Ned Yost met with the Astros on Thursday. Yost was fired by Milwaukee in September 2008, after the Brewers lost 11 of 14 games and a 5½-game lead in the wild-card race.

Also:

■ Slugger Albert Pujols said the St. Louis Cardinals are interested in extending his contract during the winter. Pujols told a Dominican radio station that he is in no rush to make a decision. He has a year left on his contract for 2010 and a club option for 2011.

McCain presses Obama to pardon Jack Johnson

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., pressed President Barack Obama to give a posthumous pardon to Jack Johnson, the black heavyweight boxing champion who was imprisoned nearly a century ago because of his romantic ties with white women.

In a letter Friday, McCain and congressman Peter King, R-N.Y., said it was regrettable that neither Obama nor anyone from his administration responded to their first letter, sent in August. They said they hope Obama would be eager to erase what they call an "act of racism" that sent the first black heavyweight champ to prison.

The two lawmakers pushed a resolution urging a pardon for Johnson, who was convicted in 1913 of transporting women across state lines for immoral purposes. Their resolution passed both houses of Congress this year.

Bob Knight joining 'Big Monday' on ESPN

BRISTOL, Conn. — Bob Knight is moving to a bigger stage with ESPN.

The network said Thursday the Hall of Fame coach will serve as analyst for the weekly "Big Monday" Big 12 game during the college basketball season.

He will also call nonconference games.

Knight worked Thursday night games during his first full season with ESPN last year.

Texas Tech, Knight's former school currently coached by his son, Pat, is not

scheduled for a "Big Monday" game this season. Knight will team with play-by-play announcer Brent Musburger.

He will continue to appear on ESPN studio shows.

Quebec City seeks \$400 million arena

QUEBEC CITY — Quebec City has announced its intention to build an arena in the hopes of bringing back an NHL team and hosting the Winter Olympics.

Mayor Regis Labeaume said on Friday that he's hired engineering firm SNC Lavalin to conduct a feasibility study.

He hopes to see the arena built from 2010 to 2012.

Labeaume expects the arena to cost \$400 million, with the city contributing \$50 million to the project. He wants the federal and provincial governments to each pony up \$175 million under infrastructure programs. Quebec lost the Nordiques in 1995, when they left to become the Colorado Avalanche. The aging Colisee arena has been cited as the main reason for the city's inability to attract another NHL team.

Three cities bid for 2018 Winter Olympics

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Three cities applied to host the 2018 Winter Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee said Munich, the French city of Annecy and the South Korean resort of Pyeongchang submitted their bids by Friday's deadline.

After an initial evaluation process, the IOC executive board will decide next June which cities to accept as official bid candidates. The full IOC will select the 2018 host city at its session in Durban, South Africa, on July 6, 2011.

Munich, which held the 1972 Summer Olympics, aims to become the first city to host the Summer and Winter Games. Pyeongchang is bidding for the third successive time after narrowly losing the 2010 and 2014 Winter Olympics.

Maradona's profane tirade under scrutiny by FIFA

CAIRO — FIFA president Sepp Blatter said Diego Maradona's profanity-filled tirade on live television after Argentina qualified for next year's World Cup will lead the organization's disciplinary committee to open a case against the former soccer great.

After Wednesday's 1-0 victory over Urugu



Texas Tech's Steven Sheffield, left, was listed ahead of Taylor Potts as the No. 1 QB for Saturday's game against No. 15 Nebraska. Potts is coming off a concussion.

JOHN A. BOWERSMITH/AP



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STARS AND STRIPES

Auto racing briefs

Earnhardt: Enough already with lost season

The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. said he's "had enough" as he rides out the worst season of his NASCAR career.

Earnhardt is stuck in a 51-race winless streak dating to 2008, his first season with Hendrick Motorsports.

 He heads into Saturday night's race at Lowe's Motor Speedway ranked 22nd in the standings and has just five top-10s this season.

Earnhardt He said he's been trying to ride out the season, but "there comes a point where you don't want to ride it out no more. You've just had enough."

Earnhardt says he has no answers on how to lift his slumping No. 88 team.

He'll start 39th in Saturday night's race.

Johnson wins Concord pole with fastest lap of season

CONCORD, N.C. — Jimmie Johnson earned another honor: the fastest qualifying lap of the NASCAR season.

The three-time defending Sprint Cup champion and points leader captured the pole at Lowe's Motor Speedway on Thursday with a lap of 192.376 mph.

Johnson's No. 48 Chevrolet had the best grip in the rain-delayed qualifying in unseasonably cool conditions.

Mark Martin, sitting second in points, will start second in Saturday's Banking 500 after a lap of 191.816 mph. Kasey Kahne qualified third.

Johnson took the points lead after winning Sunday at Fontana, Calif. The previous fastest lap was 190.907 by Dale Earnhardt Jr. at Texas. There were 29 drivers who topped Ryan Newman's pole speed of 188.475 mph from the May race at LMS.

Johnson, going out 11th of 47 cars, quickly showed he was the class of the field.

"Man, it's fast," Johnson said. "Whatever is going on with the

tire combination right now and the track, there is a ton of grip."

Martin, going out 25th, came the closest to his teammate. He'll be on the front row Saturday, sitting 12 points behind Johnson in the fifth of the 10 season-ending Chase races.

"That car was so good. It was a lot of fun," Martin said.

"I can't wait to get out here in race trim."

Juan Pablo Montoya, sitting third in points, 58 back, qualified 18th. Tony Stewart, moving up in the standings the past couple of weeks, is 84 points behind.

Also:

■ Greg Biffle said he "probably shouldn't have" run into

Joey Logano during last week's Nationwide race, an incident that led to a post-race confrontation between Biffle and Logano's father. Biffle and Logano tangled early in the race at Auto Club Speedway, a move Biffle said was payback after Logano bumped him at Kansas a week earlier.

Joey Logano went on to win his fifth Nationwide race of the year.

Tom Logano was walking to join his son at Victory Lane when he made a gesture at Biffle.

A NASCAR official at the scene pulled Tom Logano's credential and he was required to meet with Nationwide officials following the race. Biffle said he didn't think the gesture was a big deal and that the official may have overreacted.

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MLB PLAYOFFS

Division Series

(Best-of-seven)

American League**NEW YORK 3, MINNESOTA 0****Wednesday, Oct. 7**

New York 7, Minnesota 2

Friday, Oct. 9

New York 4, Minnesota 3, 11 innings

Sunday, Oct. 11

New York 4, Minnesota 1

LOS ANGELES 3, BOSTON 0**Thursday, Oct. 8**

Los Angeles 5, Boston 0

Friday, Oct. 9

Los Angeles 4, Boston 1

Sunday, Oct. 11

Los Angeles 7, Boston 6

National League**LOS ANGELES 3, ST. LOUIS 0****Wednesday, Oct. 7**

Los Angeles 5, St. Louis 3

Thursday, Oct. 8

Los Angeles 3, St. Louis 2

Saturday, Oct. 10

Los Angeles 5, St. Louis 1

PHILADELPHIA 3, COLORADO 1**Wednesday, Oct. 7**

Philadelphia 5, Colorado 1

Thursday, Oct. 8

Colorado 5, Philadelphia 4

Saturday, Oct. 10

Philadelphia at Colorado, ppd., weather

Sunday, Oct. 11

Philadelphia 6, Colorado 5

Monday, Oct. 12

Philadelphia 5, Colorado 4

League Championship Series

(Best-of-seven)

American League**NEW YORK VS. LOS ANGELES****Friday: Los Angeles (Lackey 11-8) at New York (Sabathia 19-18)****Saturday: Los Angeles (Saunders 16-7) at New York (Burnett 13-9)****Monday: New York (Pettitte 14-8) at Los Angeles (Weaver 16-8)****Tuesday: New York at Los Angeles (Kazmir 10-9)****Thursday, Oct. 22: New York at Los Angeles*****Saturday, Oct. 24: Los Angeles at New York*****Sunday, Oct. 25: Los Angeles at New York*****National League****PHILADELPHIA VS. LOS ANGELES****Thursday: Philadelphia 8, Los Angeles 6, Philadelphia leads series 1-0****Friday: Philadelphia (Martinez 5-1) at Los Angeles (Padilla 4-0)****Sunday: Los Angeles (Kuroda 8-7) at Philadelphia (Lee 14-13)****Monday: Los Angeles (Wolf 11-7) at Philadelphia****Wednesday: Los Angeles at Philadelphia****Friday, Oct. 23: Philadelphia at Los Angeles*****Saturday, Oct. 24: Philadelphia at Los Angeles*****World Series****Wednesday, Oct. 28: NL at AL****Thursday, Oct. 29: NL at AL****Saturday, Oct. 31: AL at NL****Sunday, Nov. 1: AL at NL****Monday, Nov. 2: AL at NL*****Wednesday, Nov. 4: NL at AL*****Thursday, Nov. 5: NL at AL******if necessary****Thursday****Phillies 8, Dodgers 6****Philadelphia****Los Angeles****ab r h bi ab r h bi****Rollins ss 5 1 1 0 Furcal ss 4 0 1 1****Victor cf 5 0 2 0 Ethier rf 5 1 3 1****Utley 2b 4 1 0 0 MRMrrz lf 5 1 1 2****Howard 1b 3 1 1 2 Broxton p 0 0 0 0****Werth rf 3 1 0 0 Kemp cf 5 0 2 0****Ibanez lf 4 2 2 3 Blake 3b 5 0 0 0****Madsen p 0 0 0 0 Loney 1b 4 2 3 1****Lidge p 0 0 0 0 Belliard 2b 5 1 2 0****P.Feliz 3b 3 1 0 0 RMartn c 4 1 2 1****C.Ruiz c 3 1 2 3 Kershaw p 0 0 0 0****Hamels p 0 0 0 0 Troncs p 0 0 0 0****Durbin p 0 0 0 0 O'Hudsph ph 1 0 0 0****Happ p 0 0 0 0 Belisario p 0 0 0 0****Cairo ph 1 0 0 0 Thome ph 0 0 0 0****Bastrd p 0 0 0 0 Wolf pr 0 0 0 0****Park p 0 0 0 0 Kuo p 0 0 0 0****BFrncs ph-lf 1 0 0 0 Sherrill p 0 0 0 0****Pierre ph-lf 1 0 0 0****Totals 32 8 8 8 Totals 39 6 14 6****Philadelphia 000 050 030-8****Los Angeles 010 030 020-6****E-Utley (1), DP-Philadelphia 1, Los Angeles 1, LOB-Philadelphia 5, Los Angeles 10, 2B-Howard (1), Ethier (1), R.Martin (1), HR-Ibanez (1), C.Ruiz (1), M.Ramirez (1), Loney (1), CS-Victorino (1). S-Hamels. SF-Furcal.****IP H R ER BB SO****Philadelphia****Hamels W-0****5 1/2 8 4 4 1 4****Durbin H-1****1/2 0 0 0 0 0 0****Happ H-1****1/3 0 0 0 0 1 0****Bastardo****0 1 0 0 0 0 0****Park H-1****1 0 0 0 0 0 1****Madsen****1 4 2 2 0 0 0****Lidge S-1****1 1 0 0 1 0****Los Angeles****Kershaw L-0****4 2/3 4 5 5 5 3****Troncoso****1/3 0 0 0 0 0 0****Belisario****1 0 0 0 0 0 0****Kuo****1 1 0 0 0 0 2****Sherrill****1 2 3 3 2 0 0****Broxton****1 1 0 0 0 0 1****Bastardo pitched to 1 batter in the 7th. WP-Kershaw 3. T-4:02. A-\$6,000.**

Lefties night on Left Coast

Ibanez, Howard, Hamels combine to subdue Dodgers in NLCS opener

BY BETH HARRIS*The Associated Press*

LOS ANGELES — So good at winning in walk-off fashion, the Los Angeles Dodgers couldn't find a way to get it done against the Philadelphia Phillies.

A two-run rally in the eighth inning stalled on Manny Ramirez's groundout, and the Phillies turned a double play behind Brad Lidge in the ninth to close out an 8-6 victory in Game 1 of the NL championship series Thursday night.

"With Philly's lineup the way it is, you've got to keep piling on runs and keep going," said Matt Kemp, who had two singles. "If we can start to do that, we're going to be in good shape."

The Dodgers had another chance in Game 2 Friday. Vicente Padilla got the call against Phillies veteran Pedro Martinez.

"We have a lot of confidence in ourselves. We just hope we can take advantage of situations," Dodgers manager Joe Torre said. "The thing we have to get back to is doing a better job of keeping their guys off base."

Los Angeles had 12 walk-off victories in the regular season — third-best in the majors — and pulled off another in Game 2 of the division series en route to sweeping St. Louis.

"We know we're going to have to go out there and score runs. The Dodgers aren't going to back down," Phillies first baseman Ryan Howard said. "We know they're going to come in waves and continue to fight, and that's what they did."

Carlos Ruiz and Raul Ibanez hit three-run homers and reliever Ryan Madson got a key out before Lidge pitched a scoreless ninth for the Phillies, who took a 2-0 lead in last year's best-of-seven NLCS, beat the Dodgers in five games and went on to win the World Series.

"It's like a prize fight. We just came up a little short," Torre said.

Home runs dominated on both sides in a game that lasted 4 hours, 2 minutes. Ruiz highlighted a five-run burst in the fifth and Ibanez homered in the eighth for an 8-4 lead as the Dodgers failed to neutralize the Phillies' left-handed hitting.

"We just needed that one big hit to kind of get us over the hump, and Carlos came through," Howard said. "We got guys on, and guys came through when we needed big hits."

James Loney also connected for the Dodgers. Ramirez, baseball's career playoff leader with 29 homers, hit a two-run shot. But he grounded out weakly with two runners on against the struggling Madson to end the Dodgers' rally in the eighth. Their 14 hits set a club record in an LCS game, but they stranded 10 runners.

"We had a number of opportu-



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Philadelphia's Cole Hamels hardly looked like the guy who was NLCS and World Series MVP last season, but he did get the victory as the Phillies beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NLCS opener.

nities and hit some balls hard, but seven walks is a little bit tough to overcome," Torre said.

Philadelphia's Cole Hamels thrived under pressure last October, earning NLCS and World Series MVP honors. But the left-hander hardly resembled the same pitcher in earning the victory, giving up a playoffs career-high eight hits and two homers. He allowed four runs in 5 1/3 innings.

It was his first outing since he left the ballpark in the division series against Colorado to be with his wife as she prepared to give birth. He also tied the record for most wild pitches in a LCS game, shared by Tommy John and Juan Guzman.

but there were a lot of times where the counts were in my favor and I kept them off-balance," Hamels said. "Unfortunately, some of the results weren't there, but in the key situations, I was able to get what I needed."

At 21 years and 211 days, Clayton Kershaw was the youngest pitcher to start a Game 1 in a league championship series, and it showed.

The Dodgers lefty was tagged for five runs in the fifth, when he set a LCS record for most wild pitches in an inning with three. He also tied the record for most wild pitches in a LCS game, shared by Tommy John and Juan Guzman.

"The first four innings, I felt great, and then I couldn't make adjustments fast enough. In the playoffs, you're not going to have a lot of leverage. If you don't make your pitches, before long you're out of there," he said.

"I just got out of the strike zone a little bit, and that's what happens. They make you pay for that."

Kershaw took the loss, allowing four hits and five walks in 4 2/3 innings in his second playoff start. He worked out of the bullpen in last year's NLCS. He was 0-2 with a 5.23 ERA in two starts against the Phillies during the season.

The Dodgers' usually solid bullpen couldn't contain the Phils. George Sherrill, their fourth reliever of the game, gave up Ibanez's homer on the first pitch, the first homer off him by a left-handed hitter this year. Howard and Jayson Werth drew consecutive walks to open the eighth.

"That was a shock for everybody, especially the walks," Torre said. "But again, he'll get the ball tomorrow in the eighth inning. It's just one of those things."

The Dodgers got two runs back in the bottom half of the eighth on Russell Martin's RBI single and a sacrifice fly by Rafael Furcal. They had the tying runs at first and third with two outs, but Madson won a showdown when Ramirez grounded to third.

Kershaw had retired five of the previous six batters before the Phillies got to him. Ibanez led off with a single and took second on a wild pitch before Kershaw walked Pedro Feliz. Ruiz sent a 2-1 pitch into the "Mannywood" section in left field for a 3-1 lead.

Jimmy Rollins reached on a fielder's choice, then advanced two bases on consecutive wild pitches. Chase Utley walked and Howard hit a two-run double, extending the Phillies' lead to 5-1. Howard passed Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt with his 17th post-season RBI, most in Phillies' history.

The Dodgers closed to 5-4 with three runs in the bottom of the inning. Ramirez hit his first home run since Sept. 18, a drive into the left-field pavilion off Hamels. Martin, who led off with a double, scored on Andre Ethier's grounder.

Ramirez's RBIs gave him 78 in the playoffs, three shy of breaking the career record of 80 by the New York Yankees' Bernie Williams.

Los Angeles threatened in the sixth, loading the bases on consecutive singles by Loney and Ronnie Belliard off Hamels and a two-out walk to pinch-hitter Jim Thome by reliever J.A. Happ. But Happ retired Furcal on a ground-out to end the inning.

"This time of year you want opportunities, and we're very confident we're going to cash in," Torre said.

High school scoreboard**Football**

DODEA Japan	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
a-Zama American	4	1	.800	138	92
Yokota	4	1	.800	165	64
Robert D. Edgren	2	3	.400	121	109
Nile C. Kinnick	0	5	.000	54	214
a-clinched berth in Far East Class A title game on Nov. 7 at either Daegu or Osan American					

Kanto Plain

Kanto Plain	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
Zama American	3	1	.750	88	61
ASIJ	2	1	.667	93	16
Yokota	3	2	.600	131	105
Nile C. Kinnick	0	4	.000	45	185

Friday's game

Zama 12, Edgren 7

Saturday's games

Kinnick at American School In Japan, 1 p.m.

Kadena (Okinawa) at Yokota, 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 23

ASIJ at Zama, 7 p.m.

Edgren at Yokota, 7 p.m.

DODEA Korea

DODEA Korea	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
x-Daegu American	4	0	1.000	84	48
Osan American	1	2	.333	36	51
Seoul American	1	4	.200	48	69

x-clinched 2009 DODEA Korea Football League title

Friday's game

Daegu 12, Seoul 6

Friday, Oct. 23

Daegu at Osan, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24

Korean club at Seoul American, 6 p.m.

Okinawa Activities Council

Okinawa Activities Council	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
x-Kadena	3	0	1.000	120	10
Kubasaki	0	3	.000	10	120

x-clinched fourth straight Okinawa Activities Council regular-season championship, Far East Class AA playoff semi-final berth Nov. 9 vs. Yokota.

Friday's game

Kubasaki 35, Ryukyu University 13

Saturday's game

Kadena at Yokota, 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 23

Kadena at Kubasaki, 7 p.m.

Guam**Girls volleyball****Thursday's summary****Semifinal**

Guam High def. St. John's 25-10, 19-25,

25-18

At University of Guam Field House,

Mangilao

Noteworthy—Panthers for the first time in school history advance to the championship match of the Independent Interscholastic Athletic Association of Guam playoffs. They face regular-season and defending league champion George Washington in Saturday's final match at 7 p.m. at UOG Field House.

Okinawa**Girls volleyball****Thursday's summary**

Kubasaki def. Okinawa Christian International 25-12, 22-25, 25-20, 25-17

At Yonsei

Spike kills—Kubasaki, Gabby Falco 15, Seonica aces—Kubasaki, Gabby Falco 7. Set assists—Kubasaki, Kuuleialoha Ampong 12. Defensive digs—Kubasaki, Raquel O'Neill 7.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Edgren running back Ja'Maal Dennis gets wrapped up by Zama American's D.J. Ward on Friday night at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

Japan**Tennis****Thursday's results****At Yokohama****Boys****American School In Japan 5, Yokohama International 0****Singles**

Max Negami def. Eduardo Manriquez 6-1, 6-2.

David Forster def. Till Almer 6-2, 6-1.

Ryan Rakoczy def. Arthur Pommer-sheim 6-1, 1-6, 6-2.

Doubles

Kenji Bowers and Kai Hatakeyama def. T. Miyawaki and Kaz Watanabe 6-0, 6-0.

Michael Deck and Boris Gilson def. D. Matthias and Kimi Juds 6-4, 6-3.

Girls**American School In Japan 4, Yokohama International 1****Singles**

Kelsey Leon, ASIJ, def. Vanessa Vyrail 7-5, 6-3.

Lena Yoneyama, ASIJ, def. Valerie Vyrial 6-2, 6-0.

Alana Ohno, ASIJ, def. Mao Motohashi 6-2, 6-1.

Doubles

Nicole Cho and Saaya Imura, ASIJ, def. Ellie Sats and Julie Sats 6-0, 6-0.

Tessa Yalink and Monica Brown, YIS, def. Jena Bloomer and Berit Danis 5-7, 6-3, 7-5.

South Korea**Girls volleyball****Friday's summaries****Seoul American def. Daegu American 25-14, 25-21, 25-18****At Yongsan Garrison**

Spike kills—SAHS, Destinee' Harrison 9 in 25 attempts, Liz Gleaves 8 in 19 attempts. Megan Chase 5 in 11 attempts.

Serving—SAHS, Hannah Swafford 18-for-22, Brittany Grandy 12-for-12. Set assists—SAHS, Brittany Grandy 19. Defensive digs—SAHS, Liz Gleaves 11, Brittany Grandy 5.

Seoul Foreign def. Taegon Christian International 25-10, 25-16, 11-25, 26-24

At Seoul

Spike kills—SFS, Bailey Baker 7, Jamie Kim 7. Block points—SFS, Bailey Baker 3.

Serving—SFS, Justine Makki 21-for-21.

Tennis**Friday's results****At Osan Air Base****Boys****Seoul International 5, Osan American 0****Singles**

Dennis Ryu def. Kee Park 8-1.

Jin Woo Hong def. John Flint 8-3.

David Choi def. John Bradley 8-1.

Doubles

Kevin Nem and Chris Yang def. Kee Park and John Flint 8-3.

Andrew Lee and Sean Kim def. Alex Kuster and C.J. Stokes 8-1.

Girls**Seoul International 5, Osan American 0****Singles**

Euna Sun def. Alice Kim 8-2.

Patricia Kim def. Hannah Moon 8-0.

Jennifer Sun def. Nicky Moon 8-0.

Doubles

Elca Lee and Uliana Park def. Erica Shin and Hanne Lee 8-4.

Sohyun Kang and Jennifer Lee def. Jaziel Green and Kimberly Porter 8-1.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Zama running back Ashton Norwood goes airborne against Edgren at Misawa Air Base, Japan, on Friday night. Zama won 12-7 and captured its first Far East Class A title-game berth.

Zama ends Edgren's run, earns first trip to Class A title game

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — It didn't resemble the dominating performances of the past, but Zama American coach Steven Merrell said he'd take the victory just the same.

And a significant victory it was, 12-7 at Robert D. Edgren's Eagles Field on Friday night. It ended Edgren's five-year run of Far East Class A title game appearances, the Eagles' three-year run of Class A championships and gave Zama its first Class A title-game berth.

"We're excited about that," Merrell said of Zama heading to Korea for the Class A final, slated for Nov. 7 at Daegu or Osan American. No Zama boys team has won an outright Far East title since boys basketball in 1963; wrestling shared the title in 1982.

To win that elusive title, Merrell said the Trojans must do better than they did in Friday's defensive struggle. After averaging 427 yards and 29 points in its previous four games, Zama was held to season lows in yards (112) and points.

"Credit Edgren. They did a good

job defensively. Our offensive line didn't do the things they'd been doing," Merrell said. "It may be a good thing for us, a humbling experience. But we hung in to the end. We got the win and that's the important stat."

Michael Spencer, held to a season-low 56 yards on 18 carries, jump-started the Trojans with a fumble recovery on Edgren's first possession and a 3-yard touchdown run.

That stood up until Edgren took advantage of a bad Zama punt snap. Zach Davis sneaked over from the 1 with 7:25 left in the third quarter. Greg Powell's PAT kick gave Edgren a 7-6 lead.

The Trojans answered promptly when Ryan Blackstock returned the kickoff 52 yards to Edgren's 48. Four plays later, Ashton Norwood raced around right end and 30 yards to cap the scoring.

Edgren had three more chances, including a possession that ended with 28.9 seconds left as Matt Delapaz caught a pass from Davis just short of the goal line on fourth down.

Besides Davis' TD, Edgren was in Zama territory five other times, turning the ball over on downs three times, fumbling

once and throwing an interception. Zama had four takeaways, Edgren none.

"You're in football long enough, this kind of thing happens," said coach Chris Waite, whose Eagles outgained Zama 201-112.

Of having the run of Class A titles and finals appearances end, Waite said: "I'm disappointed for the kids, and I'm sure the kids are disappointed."

Davis went 11-for-20 for 110 yards. Ja'Maal Dennis ran 19 times for 50 yards and James Ervin six times for 44 for Edgren.

Okinawa**Kubasaki 35, Ryukyu University 13**

At Camp Foster, A.J. Watson ran for 89 yards and three touchdowns on 11 carries and went 4-for-9 for 83 yards and a score as the Dragons (1-5) earned their first victory of the season, beating a Stringray team Kubasaki hadn't played since 2003.

Ladarius Ball ran 12 times for 122 yards and a touchdown. Clay Beasley caught three passes for 70 yards and a score.

Scott Rouch contributed to this report. E-mail Dave Ornauer at: orny@pstripes.osd.mil

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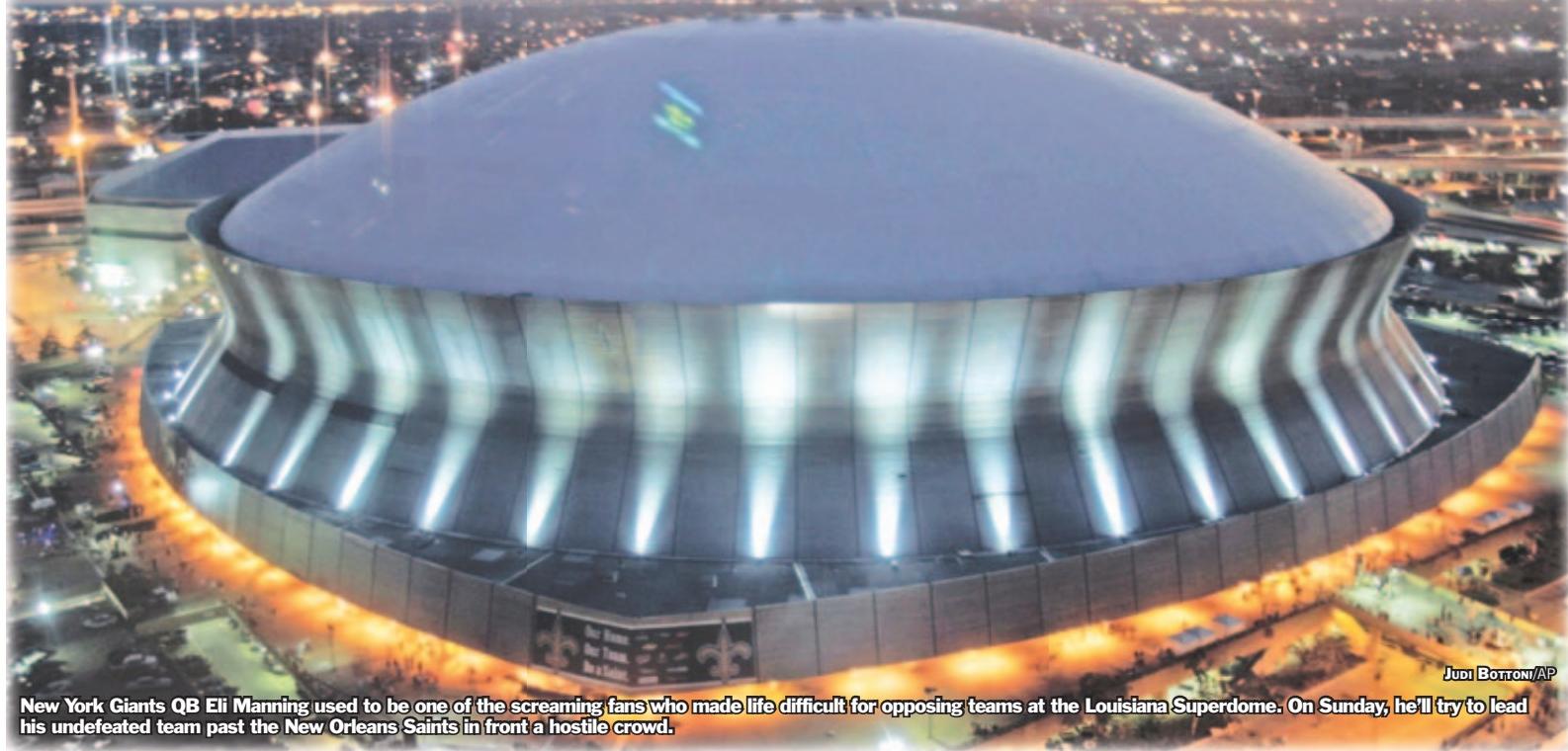
OPENING SHOTS

Homer-happy Phils
smother Dodgers' rally
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NFL GAME OF THE WEEK: N.Y. GIANTS (5-0) AT NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (4-0)

SUPER MATCHUP



JUDI BOTTONI/AP

New York Giants QB Eli Manning used to be one of the screaming fans who made life difficult for opposing teams at the Louisiana Superdome. On Sunday, he'll try to lead his undefeated team past the New Orleans Saints in front a hostile crowd.

New Orleans native Manning knows fans will be a factor

BY BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS

Drew Brees and Eli Manning have a lot in common. Both went to the Pro Bowl last winter and led undefeated teams this season. On Sunday they'll meet in the Big Easy, where Manning grew up and Brees lives. Their teams will clash in the Louisiana Superdome, where Manning has seen countless games as a fan, and where the fans pull for Brees.

For Manning, the game will offer a new experience. He used to be one of those screaming fans in the dome trying to make it tough on opposing quarterbacks. Now he'll be one of those quarterbacks trying to overcome the crowd noise.

"I know how the fans think and they are going to be loud," Manning said. "They will be rooting for the home team."

Fortunately for Manning, nothing takes a hostile crowd out of the game like the type of punishing, productive running game the Giants have. Just turn, hand off, and move the team methodically down the field, limiting chances for sacks or interceptions, the types of big plays that get a stadium rocking.

In fact, for all the accolades heaped upon the star quarterbacks of the Giants (5-0) and Saints (4-0), this game could be decided more by defense and running.

The Giants' ability to lean on Brandon Jacobs and Ahmad Bradshaw is established. New York averages 160.4 yards on the ground, which ranks fourth in the NFL, with its mix of Jacobs' power and Bradshaw's speed and elusiveness.

"You've got to have your chin strap fastened, your new mouth-

piece in, all your cheek pads ready to go. You better have your shoulder pads strapped down tight when you're getting ready to play both of those guys," Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams said. "They're both tackle-breakers. They're both very physical runners. They're both good on yards after contact."

A little more of a surprise this season has been the running game of the New Orleans Saints, who rank second in the NFL, averaging 166.3 yards. This week, the Saints will have a tandem of their own in Mike Bell and Pierre Thomas, who haven't been together all season.

Bell rushed for 229 yards in the Saints' first two games, but sprained his right knee late in New Orleans' victory at Philadelphia. Thomas, who did not have a carry the first two games while coming back from a preseason right knee sprain of his own, took center stage in Week 3 at Buffalo and has rushed for 212 yards and three TDs since.

"It's going to be electrifying because we're going to keep pounding and pounding

SEE EASY ON PAGE 34



New Orleans
Saints QB Drew
Brees (left) and New
York Giants QB Eli
Manning (right)

PHOTOS BY
BILL FEIG (BREES) AND
FRANK FRANKLIN II
(MANNING/AP)

No. 8 Cincinnati tops S. Florida after QB hurt Page 34

